Supreme Court, U.S.
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91-618

IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
OCTOBER TERM, 1991

NO.

M.T. ALCOX, W.D. PERSAVICH,
V.L. INGRUM, H.J. HILL,
C.C. McCRACKEN AND G.W. McINTYRE,
Petitioners,

v.

WILLIAM T. USELTON, ET AL.,
Respondents.

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit erred in reversing the decision of the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma holding that interests held by certain employees of Lee Way Motor Freight, Inc. (Lee Way) in an employer-funded employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) constituted investment contracts which were securities subject to the protections of the Securities Acts?

   (a) Whether the Court of Appeals erred in concluding that the Lee Way employees' interests in the ESOP were voluntary investments by them?

   (b) Whether the Court of Appeals erred in concluding that the Lee Way employees' interests in ESOP were contributory on their part?

(c) Whether the Court of Appeals erred in its interpretation and application of *International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America v. Daniel*, 439 U.S. 551 (1979)?

2. Whether the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit erred in concluding that ERISA does not pre-empt application of the Securities Acts to the Lee Way employees' interests in the ESOP.

PARTIES TO THE PROCEEDING

Petitioners represented on this Brief are former members of Commercial Lovelace Motor Freight, Inc.'s Board of Directors, namely, Michael T. Alcox, Warren D. Persavich, Christopher C. McCracken, Vernon L. Ingrum, Hugh J. Hill and Gerard W. McIntyre

(collectively referred to in the underlying proceedings and hereinafter as the "CL Defendants").[1]

Other petitioners, represented separately, are PepsiCo, Inc., Lawrence Dickey, James English, Judy Norman-Davis, Richard Campbell and Sharon Schroeder ("the PepsiCo Defendants").

Proceedings against two other defendants, Commercial Lovelace Motor Freight, Inc. also known as C.L. Motor Freight, (collectively referred to hereinafter as "CL"), and Lee Way Motor Freight, Inc. were stayed as a result of bankruptcy proceedings filed on March 7, 1985 by Lee Way Holding Company, Inc., the entity created when

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[1]The status of Vernon L. Ingrum and Hugh J. Hill in these proceedings is unclear. They were named as defendants in the original Complaint which was dismissed. They were not named as defendants in the later-filed Second Amended Complaint. Consequently, they contend that they are no longer parties to the action.

Lee Way and CL were merged.[2]

Plaintiffs are 485 former employees of Lee Way Motor Freight, Inc.:

> William T. Uselton; W.D. Hupp; C.J. Dowling; Kenneth Miles; G.D. Jeffcoat; Jack Wilson; K.D. Witt; Paula Rosa; Johnny S. Hunt; James A. Mason; Robert E. Stuart; Jerry Don Casey; Maurice Uhrmacher; Loyd A. Duncan; Vernon Jordan; Hubert D. Williamson; J.W. Haris; D.L. Haralson; Harvey Leo Hess; Wood G. Ishmael; Harold W. Summers; Charles E. Stockton; Joe C. Gray; Earl G. Jackson; E.L. Whilhock; Melvin Carpenter; Robert T. Keener; Troy G. Carson; Jack L. Blankinship; Carl L. Davidson; J.F. Maxwell; Paul M. Warren; Jay W. Harned; E.H. Coulter; Earl E. White; Cleo C. McDaniel; Bobby F. Stansbury; Bill J. Anderson; Daniel A. Denny; Carl Lee Wilson; Leroy Barrett; James E. Lee; Donald L. Butler; L.W. Gonzales; Daisy "Maurene" Davis; Keith W. Braul; Jerry L. Edgemon; Gilbert L. Robles; Loyd E. Courtney; Hollis M. Mauldin; Johnny L. Johnson; Carmel M. Doern; Tom Thelkekd; T.L. Jones; Kenneth W. Hays;

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[2] Additional defendants named in the original action are Transportation Equipment Services, Inc. and their directors; Edward L. Mulcahy; Phillip White; and H.F. Poston.

Jackie Jones; William Donley; Howard L., Mitchell; Earl D. Denton; Stanley R. Gomes; Jack P. Rowland; K.L. Billingsley; Earl L. Woffard; D. Td. Frizell; H.W. Richardson; Donald Kendrix; Betty Cox; James M. Woodward; Frank Donald R. Winter; Jack Yarbrough; Finis M. Yocum; Tommy L. Kirkland; John A. Moyshen; Harold Allison; Marion McClelland; Leslie R. Walcher; Lloyd Fortune, Sr.; B.C. Evans; Raymond B. Horn; Leeha McCormick; Pete Wolf; Leon Hancock; William Anderson; Robert G. Porter; Eldon W. Bishop; E.B. Copeland; D.K. Hanshue; E.G. Dedmon; Leslie R. Walcher; Carl L. Holman; Kenneth W. Jackson; Joel Robinson; Charles Pemberton; Bruce O. Smith; T.D. Jack; James T. Johnson; Willie G. Loudermilk; Raymond Horn; George C. Tsoodle; Gerold L. Goad; B.J. Burrell; D.Y. Qualine; Frances M. McKye; Alonzo Anderson; Hoarce E. Reeves; Betty Moore; Billy R. Jenkins; Jerry A. Warren; C.J. Womack; Johnny Ballard; Kelley Ruminer; Deborah Yandell; Robert Ferguson; Claudie C. Weaver; John O. Stanley; William R. Bricker; Elen H. Spiva; Phillip Horne; Earl V. Griffin; Anna M. Burkett; James E. Neal; James McCampbell; Valorie Booker; J.W. Rackley; Ronnie J. Steward; Clarence Burns; John L. Knapp; Ramon L. Wolfe; W.A. Smith; Alan Prudhome; James E. Thompson; Henry S. Baxter; Patsy R. Brock; Larry Joe Stafford; Daniel Looney; Byron A. Bouchelle; Carl F. Davis; Jerry

I. Poindexter; Lee Roy Houston; Clinton H. Reynolds; Nib E. Hill; David R. Hines; C.G. Olson; Cleophos Frost; Bobby G. Decker; James Long; Lorita A. Goya; Wayne T. Wells; Gerald A. Luton; Harold Shea; Johnnie T. Henson, Jr.; Opal Lee Broussard; Homer Kimble; Jerry Nohnager; Judy A. Rogers; Ilona Garrison; Edward A. King; Alyce L. King; Evert L. Carroll; Ben H. Marshall; Shirley J. Lamb; John William Edwards; Maurice Cannon; Leroy Phelps; J.D. Burkhalter; Rickki L. Barnes; Bob J. Sharber; William D. Sandell; William E. Shockley; Don Cutler; Nancy A. Bomhoff; Vaughn Bryant; Warren Rex Chapin; Herman L. Klaus; Willie L. Wixom; Billy O. Hawkins; Jack D. Edwards; Rita Henry; Carl Holiday; Douglas Messel; Diane J. Trigg; Tommy A. Howard; Norvell Lancaster; Bobby Bowling; P.J. Warren; Robert C. Anderson; Doyle C. Adams; Glenn D. Christians; Willard Terry; Bill Stewart; Jimmy King; Richard Borne; Johnny Warmoth; Franklin A. Nieley; Charles Norton; Glen Layton; Leo Thompson; D.L. Loman; Marland Glover; Bobby Bennett; Jerry Chronister; Lawrence White; Donald Fitz; Odis Ward; Donald T. Kendrix; Ruel L. Monroe; Randall Johnston; Douglas Webb; Roger L. Smith; Benny Shumway; Bobby Johnson; Theal Crews; Arnett Richardson; Junior Lee Golden; Jim Bob Keith; Bob L. Wilkerson; Jerry R. Kennedy; James L. Freeman; Marvin E. Meek; Leroy Gray; Leroy Hill; Lealus Thomas; A.W. Barnett; Donald L.

Mayfield; Jimmie Masters; Jmwa E. Poerwe; James E. Young; Rickey D. Allen; William W. Partin; James E. Vap; Edith J. Vap; John Reynolds; Arthur Golden; Joe C. Nixon; Willie Joseph; John H. Heil; Donald H. Brechinsen; James Altizen; William T. Wimmer; I.B. Boyd; E. Ferrell Bussing; Jimmie L. Williams; Roy J. Sassano, Sr.; Eleanor C. Mowery; Eugene D. Rider; George W. Baldwin; Garland R. Hooper; Earl Joslin; Karen Nydick; Gerold Wagner; L.V. Foreman; Don Lepley; E.J. Fidler; Claude W. Woeley; Fred M. Silver; Herbert L. Keith; Carl E. Davis; Paul Goodman; Ronald C. Daudill; William P. Dodd; Dennis S. Crews; William D. Keesee; Jerry D. Bass; R.T. Skelton; Delbert D. Utsler; Don E. Bailey; Howard Whittenberg; Marcia C. Long; A.C. Phillips; Jo Ann Martin; Leon Combs; Jerry C. Forbes; J.R. Bishop; Billy Reeves; Farrell J. Pickens; James Richard Howells; Lawrence Shelton; Charles Huckabee; Jmwa Axheowswe; Thomas Jaramillo; J. David Smith; W.T. Young; Carl H. Davison; Sharon Key Harris; Lew F. Fresonke; Joe Knapp; Lesley E. Chapman; R.D. Bivins; George W. Barton; Marion A. Neal; Rebecca Crawford; Deatron I. Morgan; W.H. Nevels; Jim Oliver; Clarence E. Smith; Robert Wilson; Linda Lekawski; Michael Fundstein; Jerry L. Bender; William D. Beery; Donald M. Larson; William J. Azlin; Dwight W. Rogers; Judy A. Rogers; Walter R. Lewis; Charles Huckaboy; Barbara Harwell; Rebecca Pearson; Molly Hoffman; Patricia

McCanlies; K.E. Sterrett; Thurman B. Nelson; Nelda M. Carroll; Johnny Wallace; Guadalupe Rodriguez; Raymond Davey; L.V. Davis; Bobby D. Price; Gary L. Passon; Lanora Workman; John Davenport; Jimmie D. Jennings; Leo Scruggs; Dallas Niblock; Leo Suggs; Stanley W. Moore; John D. Horn; Anthony Spitzley; Manual Sena; James F. Ayres; Daniel A. Sikorsky; Albert E. Oyos; C.D. Ridgley; Earl Greene; Salvador C. Perez; Cesar B. Sheen; Joe Manuel; Benjamin Saenz; Arturo C. Marquez; Edward Lavelle; Robert Rognon; Bernardo Saenz; Protacio S. Abrego; Steven Moylan; Carl M. Lavender; Ruben D. Cota; Manuel F. Gamez; Narcizo Reaza; Frank M. Hernandez; Ronald Murdock; Jesse Terrazas; Jimmie Rodriguez; Manuel R. Barrera; Howard Wing; Robert R. Contreras; Joe C. Nixon; Oscar J. Munoz; Theresa A. Wright; Dora Perkins; W.H. Hohensee; W.R. Gunn; Bob Kwnnixurr; Kenneth D. Williams; Javier Adame; Manuel M. Holquin; Harry Hill; Rick Skinner; Harold Mitchell; Vince Wolpoff; Warren Yoder; William Salinas; John D. Lent; Carl Christensen; J.M. Ferez; Lisardo Jaramillo; Henry L. Hoskison; Bill Bass; Bob Rognon; Fred Walling; Hector R. Mendoza; Martin Bautista; Daniel A. Merkle; Roger A. Peterson; Jack L. Bynum; Joel E. Henderson, Sr.; Marvin L. Wright; C.R. Blades; Rolando L. Galindo; Esequiel Barcena; Floyd L. Biddlecome, Sr.; Ramon A. Rodriguez; Ruben Williams; Alva J. Chaney, Jr.; Ceasar Val

Verde; Gilbert Hernandez; Victor Juarez; John L. Washington; David L. Carney; Thomas Jaranille; James D. Weston; Ronald R. Murdock; Tony C. Gonzales; Richard A. Sanchez; Shirley F. Bennett; Bobby Derring; Fulton Marks, Jr.; Adolfo Elias, Jr.; D. Patrick Wright; Norman E. Cardwell; Robert M. Ferguson; Don R. Wheeler; J. Brannon; Robert A. Wesley; Alvin D. Fitzgerald; James E. Rowe; Alfred M. Martinez; Berry R. Raymondo; Carroll C. Abel; Oscar G. Powell, Jr.; Alvin W. Green; Huey A. Fredeiu; Ben Saenz; Harold R. Dagne; Britt Ingrid Keith; Robert M. Turner.

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OPINIONS BELOW

The opinion of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit is reported at 940 F.2d 564. It is reproduced at pages 1 through 80 of the Appendix to this Petition and is cited hereinafter as "Opinion". The decision of the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma is reproduced at pages 81-122 of the Appendix to this Petition (and is cited hereinafter as "Trial Court Decision").

JURISDICTION

The judgment of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit was entered on July 12, 1991. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1254(1). Jurisdiction of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit was proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1291 and jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma was proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331.

STATUTES AND RULES INVOLVED

This case involves §§ 2(1), 5 and 17(A) of the Securities Act of 1933, 15 U.S.C. §§ 77(b)(1); §§ 77e, 77q(a) and §§ 3(a)(10) and 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 15 U.S.C. §§ 78c(a)(10) and 78j(b); and the Employee Retirement Income Securities Act of 1974 (ERISA), 29 U.S.C. § 1001, et seq.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Summary

The issue presented in this Petition is whether Respondents' interests in the CL Employee Stock Ownership Plan ("ESOP") are securities under federal law. Petitioners contend they are not, based on *International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America v. Daniel*, 439 U.S. 551 (1979), in which this Court held that interests in a non-contributory, compulsory pension plan did not constitute securities and were not subject to the

Securities Acts, and based on the protection afforded by ERISA to petitioners' interests in the CL ESOP. After a bench trial, the District Court agreed with petitioners and dismissed respondents' claims. On appeal, the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit reversed and reinstated respondents' claims. Petitioners seek from this Court a Writ of Certiorari.

Background

Respondents are former employees of Lee Way Motor Freight, Inc. ("Lee Way"), a trucking concern, formerly headquartered in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Lee Way was acquired by PepsiCo, Inc. in 1976. In June, 1984, PepsiCo agreed to sell Lee Way to Commercial Lovelace Motor Freight, Inc. ("CL"). The sale required the approval of the Interstate Commerce Commission ("ICC"). When the ICC approved the transaction in August, 1984, the sale was finalized. While PepsiCo and CL waited for ICC approval, CL

operated Lee Way pursuant to a management agreement.

In 1983, approximately one year before CL acquired Lee Way, CL implemented a compensation program at CL in order to reduce CL's costs, partly in response to competitive pressures created by deregulation of the trucking industry. In June, 1984, after PepsiCo agreed to sell Lee Way to CL, and while waiting for ICC approval, CL's management began soliciting Lee Way employees to participate in the compensation program already in place at CL. The terms offered to Lee Way employees were the same terms implemented by CL in 1983. Non-union salaried employees of Lee Way were required to participate in the compensation program as a condition of their employment. Union employees signed consent forms in order to participate.

The CL compensation program consisted of three parts: (1) an employee wage reduction of 17.355%; (2)

a cash profit-sharing bonus plan entitling employees to 20% of consolidated pre-tax profits earned by CL; and (3) an employee stock ownership plan in CL common stock (the "ESOP").

The following facts regarding the ESOP were stipulated to by the parties and are contained in the Affidavit of James McGuire, Vice President of Central National Bank of Cleveland, the ESOP's Trustee. Pertinent paragraphs of McGuire's Affidavit state:

> 3. As ESOP Trustee, Central Bank received from CL in 1983 (prior to CL's purchase of Lee Way Motor Freight, Inc. ("Lee Way") stock certificates for 4,001,000 shares of CL common stock, which constituted 50.01% of CL's outstanding shares. Except for the nominal sum of $100 deposited in the ESOP Trust in connection with its establishment, the sole consideration for such shares consisted of $750,000 evidenced by five Trust notes of $150,000 each, serially maturing on the last day of

February in the years 1984 through 1988.

4. Initially all CL shares were pledged as security for the Trust notes. The provisions of the ESOP contemplate that annually CL will forgive the serial note then maturing and that thereupon 800,000 shares of CL stock will be released from pledge and allocated to employees in accordance with the formula provided by the Plan, or that CL would make a cash contribution to the ESOP in the face amount of the note and Central Bank would then pay off the note by redelivering the funds to CL, thereby releasing the 800,000 shares of CL stock from the pledge. On March 20, 1984, CL made a cash contribution to the ESOP in the amount of $149,900. On the same date, Central Bank delivered $150,000 to CL in payment of the 1984 note. In 1985, CL notified Central Bank that the 1985 note was forgiven, thereby releasing an additional 800,000 shares of CL stock for allocation among the employees in accordance with the formula

provided by the Plan. To date, 1,600,000 shares have been released from pledge and allocated under the terms of the Plan to employees, including those Lee Way employees participating in the Plan.

5. Pursuant to this arrangement, the only Trust asset (apart from the initial nominal deposit of $100) which Central Bank has held as Trustee has consisted of CL shares.

6. No payroll deductions or other cash payments (other than the cash contribution described in paragraph 4) have ever been transferred to the ESOP Trust.

7. No employee contributions have been made to the ESOP Trust, nor are any such contributions permitted under the terms of Section 4 of the CL Employee Stock Ownership Plan, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit C. The CL Plan has been entirely funded by the employer, as set forth in paragraph 3 above.

Affidavit of James McGuire at ¶ 3-7, App 118-120.[3]

CL's management presented the compensation program, including the ESOP, to Lee Way employees. They informed Lee Way employees that (1) Lee Way had suffered major operating losses and needed to decrease expenses to continue operating; (2) the employees needed to agree to wage reductions to save the company and their jobs; (3) the reductions in wages would help reduce Lee Way's expenses; and (4) without overwhelming employee participation in the program, Lee Way would probably fail.

Respondents participated in the compensation program. After Lee Way failed, however, respondents filed suit alleging that their interests in the ESOP were

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[3] The text of James McGuire's Affidavit regarding the ESOP was incorporated into Stipulated Facts agreed to by respondents, the CL defendants, and PepsiCo. The Stipulated Facts were attached to the Trial Court's Decision Order and were incorporated in their entirety as part of the Trial Court's Findings of Fact. (*Trial Court Decision*, App. 4-5)

investment contracts and that the petitioners had violated securities laws in soliciting respondents' participation in the compensation program. Respondents seek more than six million dollars they allege as lost wages resulting from their participation in the compensation program, but they do not seek to recover benefits from the ESOP or otherwise to enforce their rights as ESOP participants.

The CL defendants filed Motions to Dismiss the original Complaint and the First Amended Complaint. Both Complaints included allegations that respondents' participation in the ESOP was not voluntary. The Trial Court granted the Motions to Dismiss, but permitted respondents to file a Second Amended Complaint. In it, respondents alleged, for the first time, that their participation in the ESOP was voluntary.

Following discovery and additional pretrial proceedings, the case was segmented for trial so that the Trial Court could resolve the disputed issue of

whether interests in the ESOP were, in fact, voluntary and contributory and otherwise constituted a security within the meaning of the Securities Acts.

After trial, the Trial Court ruled that the ESOP was neither contributory nor voluntary. Therefore, the Trial Court determined that the respondents' interests in the ESOP were not securities within the meaning of the Securities Acts:

> As a matter of law, for the reasons set forth in the findings of fact above, the CL ESOP was neither contributory nor voluntary. No employee contributions were permitted to be made to the plan, and in fact none were made. Moreover, the testimony at trial established that the decision to participate in the plan was overwhelmingly non-voluntary. Finally, the plaintiffs' participation in the plan had virtually no characteristics of an investment decision actionable under federal securities law. *International Brotherhood of Teamsters v. Daniel*, 439 U.S. 551, 559-60

> (1979). In short, the participation of Lee Way employees in the CL ESOP did not constitute a security within the meaning of federal securities law.

Trial Court Decision, App. 102-103, (footnote omitted).

The Trial Court's factual determinations -- underpinning its conclusions of law -- were based on undisputed factual stipulations that (1) the ESOP plan documents provided that "no employee would be required or permitted to make contributions to the ESOP Trust." (*Trial Court Decision*, App 112) and (2) the Affidavit of the ESOP Trustee that no employee contributions were made to the ESOP. (App 120).

In determining that the respondents' participation in the ESOP was involuntary (as originally alleged in the original Complaint and First Amended Complaint), the Trial Court stated:

> As to the non-union Lee Way Employees who participated in the program, such participation was clearly

> not voluntary. In fact, participation was a condition of continued employment.
>
> Although the subject of dispute at trial, the far greater weight of testimony established that the union employees who participated in the program did not view their participation as voluntary. Indeed, most viewed their options as "no choice at all", but rather the only possible avenue of saving their jobs. To the extent contrary testimony was presented, the credibility of the witnesses in question was either impaired on cross-examination or was contradicted by the testimony of fellow employees.

(Trial Court Decision, App. 100-101) (citations omitted).

Significantly, it was undisputed that the non-union Lee Way employees' participation in the ESOP was not voluntary. Moreover, the Trial Court found on the evidence at trial that respondents, as union employees, perceived no real choice but to participate in the compensation program because Lee Way would

fail and they would lose their jobs if they did not participate.

Having resolved the factually disputed issues regarding the compulsory, non-contributory nature of respondents' interests in the ESOP, the Trial Court applied this Court's decision in *International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America v. Daniel*, 439 U.S. 551 (1979), that an employee benefit plan which is neither contributory nor compulsory is not an investment contract and therefore is not subject to the Securities Act.

The Court of Appeals rejected the Trial Court's factual findings, substituted its own characterization of the "economic reality" of the compensation program, and reversed the Trial Court with an explanation that the employees' interests in the ESOP were voluntary and contributory. In addition, the Court of Appeals decided that ERISA, with which petitioners had fully complied in the administration of the ESOP, did not

pre-empt application of the Securities Acts to interests in the ESOP.

In its opinion, the Court of Appeals stretches and strains to construe case law and statutes which will support its result-oriented decision. Nevertheless, the incompatibility of the Court of Appeals' decision with established precedent of this Court and prior decisions of other courts is glaringly apparent from the statement in footnote 12 of the Court of Appeals' decision that "To the extent these cases are not distinguishable, we also simply disagree that plaintiffs' wage concessions in this case were not investments that led to the creation of investment contracts under *Howey*." *Opinion,* App. 46-47 (emphasis added) This statement amply reveals that, in truth, the Court of Appeals interjected itself into an improper de novo fact finding process and then disregarded established precedent to achieve the result it desired.

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT

The Court of Appeals' Opinion is in direct conflict with the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Daniel*, *supra*, and decisions of other federal courts, and it aggressively advances the application of the securities laws to an area -- employee benefit plans and -- ESOP's -- already regulated under ERISA. The list of federal court decisions following *Daniel* is lengthy: See, e.g., *Coward v. Colgate-Palmolive Co.*, 686 F.2d 1230 (7th Cir. 1982) (voluntary, contributory benefit plan is not a security because participants were interested in acquiring an insurance-type retirement benefit, rather than making an investment for profit); *Black v. Payne*, 591 F.2d 83 (9th Cir. 1979) (involuntary, contributory plan is not a security because plan not enacted to provide an investment opportunity); *Cunha v. Ward Foods Inc.*, 545 F. Supp. 94 (D. Haw. 1982) aff'd. in part and rev'd. in part on other grounds, 804 F.2d 1418 (9th Cir. 1986) (voluntary, contributory benefit plan is

not a security plan where plan existed to provide retirement benefits, not profit on a personal investment); *O'Neil v. Marriott Corp.*, 538 F. Supp. 1026 (D. Md. 1982) (voluntary, contributory benefit plan is not a security where contributions toward retirement benefits were not made with expectation of profit from the efforts of others); *Newkirk v. General Electric Company*, Fed. Sec. L. Rep. (CCH) ¶97, 216 (N.D. Cal. 1979) (voluntary, contributory plan is not a security where plan provides insurance-like benefits, as opposed to prospect of profits on an investment); *Tanuggi v. Grolier Inc.*, 471 F. Supp. 1209 (S.D.N.Y. 1979) (voluntary, contributory plan is not a security where plan provided insurance-like benefits, not an investment opportunity); *Robinson v. United Mine Workers of America*, 435 F. Supp. 245 (D.D.C. 1977) (involuntary, non-contributory plan is not a security); *Bauman v. Bish*, 571 F. Supp. 1054 (N.D. W. Va. 1983). In essence, the Court of Appeals' Opiion conflicts with these

decisions and creates uncertainty about the very important question of the applicability of the securities laws to ESOP's.

Although the Court of Appeals recognizes that the ESOP was mandatory and involuntary for management employees at Lee Way, the Court of Appeals nonetheless proceeds to declare that the ESOP was voluntary because the union employees signed consent forms in order to participate. Hence, the very same ESOP was voluntary for one set of employees -- the union participants -- but was involuntary for another set of employees -- the non-union participants. The Court of Appeals' characterization of the plan as voluntary is irreconcilable with applicable law and underscores the flaw in the decision.

The Court of Appeals' unwillingness to recognize the logic of legal precedent which declines to superimpose yet another regulatory scheme on employee wage concession packages is based on the

appellate court's philosophical differences of opinion with precedent and not on law. Apparently, the Court of Appeals was improperly swayed by its desire to lend a hand to the respondents, who were unfortunate victims of the CL-Lee Way bankruptcy.

Similar emotional bias influenced the lower courts in *Daniel* who deplored the "Draconian" outcome which they tried to avoid by erroneously applying the Securities Acts to Daniel's pension plan. (See, *Daniel vs. International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Warehousemen and Helpers of America*, 561 F.2d 1223, 1228 (N.D. Ill. 1977), rev'd. 439 U.S. 551 (1979). This Court reversed.

As a result of the Court of Appeals' judicial activism in burdening employers with an additional regulatory scheme, the ability of employers to implement wage forgiveness ESOP's to resuscitate faltering businesses is fraught with uncertainty and peril.

The attendant confusion will burden not only employers, but labor unions, employee benefit plan trustees and administrators and courts unless this Court defines the applicability and scope of the securities laws to plans of the type involved in this case. The Court of Appeals overstepped its bounds by substituting its facts for the Trial Court's. The ability of employers, plan trustees, plan administrators and unions to rely on the documents governing such programs will be disrupted if the Court of Appeals' decision is allowed to stand. Given the inconsistent and unsupported reasoning of the Court of Appeals, this Court should grant the Writ and issue definitive direction to employees and plan trustees which will re-harmonize the decisions on the subject.

THE COURT OF APPEALS ERRED WHEN IT REVERSED THE TRIAL COURT

A. An ESOP Is Not Included Within The Definition Of The Term Security.

The purpose of the federal securities laws is to protect investors. *SEC v. W. J. Howey Co.*, 328 U.S. 293, 301 (1946). The securities laws are not intended to provide a broad federal remedy for all wrongs. *Marine Bank v. Weaver, 455 U.S. 551 (1982).* Rather, the securities laws focus on the capital markets of the enterprise system. *United Housing Foundation, Inc. v. Forman*, 421 U.S. 837 (1975).

The term security is defined in § 2(1) of the Securities Act of 1933, 15 U.S.C. § 77b(1) (1988). It provides, in pertinent part:

> Any note, stock, treasury stock, bond, debenture, . . . investment contract . . . or in general, any interest or instrument commonly known as "security" . . . ".

The definition of security under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 15 U.S.C. § 78c(a)(10) is substantially similar. Neither includes an ESOP within the definition of security. Consequently, for respondents to establish that the ESOP in this case was a security, they must satisfy the definition of an investment contract outlined in *SEC v. Howey*, 328 U.S. 293 (1946). *Howey* stated, in relevant part:

> An investment contract for purposes of the Securities Act means a contract, transaction or scheme whereby a person invests his money in a common enterprise and is led to expect profits solely from the efforts of a promoter or third party . . .

Id. at 298-99.

1. THE CL ESOP WAS NON-CONTRIBUTORY BECAUSE THE EMPLOYEES MADE NO MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PLAN THROUGH WAGE DEDUCTIONS OR OTHER MEANS.

It was established at the District Court level, by stipulation of the parties, that no employee contributions were made to the CL ESOP. It was undisputed that the ESOP plan documents stated that "no participant shall be required or permitted to make contributions to the trust." *Trial Court Decision*, Undisputed Findings of Fact ¶26 (App. 95).

Despite these clear and unambiguous indicia that *Howey's* "investment of money" portion of the test was not satisfied, the Court of Appeals went out of its way to create a singularly expansive interpretation of the investment contract definition to support its reversal of the Trial Court's decision. Indeed, the Court of Appeals virtually abandoned the evidentiary record in claiming that the "economic realities" of the transaction

amounted to an "exchange of value". *United Housing Foundation, Inc. v. Forman*, 421 U.S. 837 (1975).

Somehow, the Court of Appeals concluded that the respondents "contributed their legal right to a portion of their wages to CL in return for the right to acquire CL stock via the CL ESOP and to participate in CL's profit sharing plan." However, the Court of Appeals' finding is unsupported by any citation to the record, is dead-set against the Trial Court's findings, rejects previous precedent on that point, and directly contradicts the undisputed evidentiary record that "there is no direct equivalency between the value of the CL shares allocated to any given participant's ESOP account and any salary reduction or deduction to which that participant may have agreed." *Affidavit of James McGuire* at ¶ 9, (App 121).

Given the objective evidence contained in the provisions of the plan documents themselves, which state that no participant was required or permitted to

make contributions to the trust, and the stipulated facts that [t]here is no direct equivalency between the value of the CL shares allocated to a given participant's ESOP account and any salary reduction or deduction which the participant may have agreed", *McGuire Affidavit* (App. 121), it was error for the Court of Appeals to conclude that the economic realities of the transaction embodied an exchange of value by the respondents for an investment.

Had the Court of Appeals followed the proper legal standard under *Howey*, it would have affirmed the Trial Court's determination that there was no "investment of money", just as this Court decided in *Daniel*, and as another federal court decided in *Bauman v. Bish*, 571 F.Supp. 1054 (N.D. W. Va. 1983). The notion that an employer's contribution to an ESOP trust can be treated as an investment by the employee was rejected by this Court in *Daniel*. This Court stated:

> It ignores the economic realities to equate employer contributions with an investment by the employee.

Id. at 561.

The terms of the plan in *Daniel* provided that it would be funded solely by the employer, and this Court logically held that the *Daniel* plan did not involve an "investment of money" by the employees as a matter of economic reality. Hence, there was no investment contract, and there was no security subject to the Securities Acts. A similar result is appropriate -- indeed, inescapable -- in this case and was, in fact, reached by the Trial Court before the Court of Appeals erroneously overruled it.

More recently, in *Bauman*, a District Court dismissed the claim that creation of the ESOP violated federal securities laws. The *Bauman* ESOP arose from an employee buyout of the Weirton Division of National Steel, pursuant to which all employee

compensation was reduced by 32% and an ESOP was established with stock from the new employee-owned company. The stock of the new company was allocated to employees in an amount equivalent to their proportional share of compensation paid by the company. The District Court correctly decided that no investment had been made as a matter of economic reality.

2. The Court of Appeals Erred In Reversing The District Court's Holding That Plaintiffs' Participation In The ESOP Was Involuntary.

The Trial Court concluded that the ESOP was involuntary because participation in the compensation program was a mandatory condition of employment for Lee Way's non-union salaried employees and because the evidence at trial established that the union employees who participated in the program considered it the only way to save their jobs.

The Court of Appeals reversed based, in part, on its interpretation of *Salazar v. Scandia Corp.*, 656 F.2d 578 (10th Cir. 1981); *Cunha v. Ward Foods, Inc.*, 545 F.Supp. 94 (D. Haw. 1982), aff'd in part and rev'd in part on other grounds, 804 F.2d 1418 (9th Cir. 1986); and *O'Neil v. Marriot Corp.*, 538 F.Supp. 1026 (D. Md. 1982) as establishing the definition of a voluntary plan as one which simply permits employees to elect whether or not to participate. *Opinion*, (App 36). However, the Court of Appeals completely disregarded the undisputed fact that participation in the ESOP was a mandatory condition of employment for Lee Way's non-union salaried employees. Since the Opinion incorrectly states that "all the plaintiffs in this action individually elected to participate in the Program", it appears the Court of Appeals misunderstood essential facts which were critical to its determination. See, *Opinion*, (App 36-38).

B. THE COURT OF APPEALS' DECISION THAT ERISA DOES NOT PRE-EMPT APPLICATION OF THE SECURITIES ACTS TO THE ESOP CONFLICTS WITH THIS COURT'S DECISION IN *INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS, CHAUFFEURS, WAREHOUSEMEN AND HELPERS OF AMERICA VS. DANIEL*, 439 U.S. 551 (1979).

The Court of Appeals' Opinion directly conflicts with this Court's decision in *Daniel* that ERISA pre-empts application of the Securities Acts to employee benefit plans. The extensive disclosure and reporting requirements of ERISA, which the parties in this case stipulated were followed in the administration of the CL ESOP, sufficiently protects respondents and, in fact, does so more effectively than the Securities Acts which, unlike ERISA, are not expressly geared to benefit plans. This Court stated in *Daniel*:

> Unlike the Securities Acts, ERISA deals expressly and in detail with pension plans. ERISA requires pension plans to disclose specified information to employees in a specified manner, . . . in

> contrast to the indefinite and uncertain disclosure obligations imposed by the anti-fraud provisions of the Securities Acts, . . .

Daniel, 439 U.S. at 569 (citations omitted).

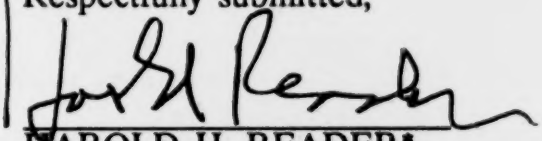
The Court of Appeals in this case declined to follow *Daniel*, in part, because it believed *Daniel*'s holding was limited to non-contributory, compulsory plans which the Court of Appeals, as discussed above, erroneously concluded the CL ESOP was not.

In summary, the Court of Appeals has created uncertainty around the critical issue of whether employee wage reductions in the context of ESOP's are compensation packages or securities transactions. With this Petition, this Court can bring this conflicted issue to a head and, as it did in *Daniel*, set the record straight for the myriad of employers, employees, unions, plan administrators and trustees involved in employee stock ownership plans.

CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons, this Petition for Writ of Certiorari should be granted.

Respectfully submitted,



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SANCHEZ; SHIRLEY F.)
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ROWE; ALFRED M.)
MARTINEZ; BERRY R.)
RAYMONDO; CARROLL C.)
ABEL; OSCAR G.)
POWELL, JR.; ALVIN W.)
GREEN; HUEY A.)
FREDEIU; BEN SAENZ;)
HAROLD R. DAGNE; BRITT)
INGRID KEITH; ROBERT M.)

TURNER,

Plaintiffs-Appellants-
Cross-Appellees,

v.

COMMERCIAL LOVELACE MOTOR FREIGHT, INC., also known as C.L. Motor Freight, doing business as Lee Way Motor Freight, Inc.; M.T. ALCOX; W.D. PERSAVICH; C.C. MCCRACKEN; N.L. INGRUM; H.J. HILL; G.W. MCINTYRE; TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT SERVICES, INC. and their directors; EDWARD L. MULCAHY; PHILLIP WHITE; H.F. POSTON.

Defendants-Appellees,

and

PEPSICO, INC., doing business as Lee Way Motor Freight, Inc., a Delaware corporation, individually; S. E. SCHRODER; JAMES ENGLISH; LAWRENCE F. DICKIE; JUDY NORMAN-DAVIS; RICHARD CAMPBELL,

Defendants-Appellees-Cross-Appellants.)

APPEAL FROM THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA
(D.C. No. 84-2807-P))

Joseph C. Long, Norman, Oklahoma (E. W. Keller and Trent Keller, Keller, Fernald & Keller, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, with him on the brief), for plaintiffs-appellants.

Harold H. Reader, II, Cleveland, Ohio, and Michael L. Brody, Schiff, Hardin & Waite, Chicago, Illinois (John R. Couch, James E. Golden, Jr., with them on the brief), for defendants-appellees M. T. Alcox, W. D. Persavich, C. C. McCracken, V. L. Ingrum, H. L. Hill, and G. W. McIntyre.

Charles C. Green, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Roger Pascal, Michael L. Brody, Robert D. Campbell, Schiff Hardin & Waite, Chicago, Illinois, for defendants-appellees and cross-appellants PepsiCo, Inc., Lawrence Dickie, James English, Judy Norman-Davis, Richard Campbell, and Sharon Schroder.

Before McKAY, SEYMOUR, Circuit Judges, and KANE,** District Judge.

**Honorable John L. Kane, Senior District Judge, United States District Court for the District of Colorado, sitting by designation.

KANE, Senior District Judge.

This appeal arises out of an action brought by more than four hundred former employees of Lee Way Motor Freight, Inc. against their former employer and others alleging violations of federal and Oklahoma securities law and common law fraud. After a segmented trial to the court on the issue of whether an interest in the instrument at issue, an employee stock ownership plan, constituted a security under federal law, the district court held that it did not and entered judgment for defendants on the federal securities claims. Finding no basis for federal jurisdiction over the plaintiffs, remaining state law claims, the court dismissed them in their entirety. This appeal and cross-appeal followed upon the court's denial of defendants' motion for costs

and fees. We affirm in part and reverse in part.

Background

The following facts are undisputed unless otherwise noted:

Plaintiffs-appellants in this matter are 485 former union employees of Lee Way Motor Freight, Inc. (Lee Way), a common carrier engaged in the interstate and intrastate transportation of commodities. In 1976, Lee Way was acquired by defendant-appellee Pepsico, Inc., which operated the company as a wholly owned subsidiary until June 1984 when it agreed to sell Lee Way to defendant-appellee Commercial Lovelace Motor Freight, Inc. (CL). Because CL was also a common carrier, this sale was not finalized until the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) approved the transaction in August 1984. CL operated Lee Way pursuant to a management agreement with Pepsico pending ICC approval of the sale.

Shortly after taking over Lee Way's operations,

CL began soliciting Lee Way employees to participate in a Wage Reduction Program (Program) that had been in place at CL since 1983. This Program, which was optional for plaintiffs and Lee Way's other union employees,[1] provided each participating union employee with an interest both in CL's existing company-administered employee stock ownership plan (CL ESOP) and a profit-sharing plan in return for the individual employee's agreement to a 17.35% reduction in the wages due him or her under the union's collective bargaining agreement. CL represented to Lee Way employees that the company would probably fail if they did not enroll in the Program. All of the plaintiffs in this action individually elected to participate in the Program. Less than a year later, CL merged with Lee Way and filed for bankruptcy. Lee Way's former assets

[1]Participation in the Program was a mandatory condition of employment for Lee Way's nonunion, salaried employees.

were then allegedly reacquired by Pepsico.

In this action, plaintiffs allege that Pepsico's sale of Lee Way to CL and its subsequent reacquisition of Lee Way's assets upon CL's rapid demise were all part of a sham transaction designed to disguise Pepsico's intended and ultimately successful liquidation of Lee Way. Plaintiffs further allege that certain aspects of this sham transaction, including CL's solicitation of them to accept a wage reduction in return for an interest in the CL ESOP, violated federal and Oklahoma securities laws and constituted common law fraud. Plaintiffs seek various relief from defendants CL, Pepsico and officers and directors of both companies for these alleged transgressions, including, among other things, revocation of the plaintiffs, participation in the CL ESOP and recovery of more than $6 million in wages lost by plaintiffs as a result of their participation in the Wage

Reduction Program.[2] Plaintiffs do not seek to recover benefits from the CL ESOP or otherwise enforce their rights as ESOP participants.

In their federal securities claim, plaintiffs allege that their interests in the CL ESOP were "investment contracts" subject to federal securities regulation pursuant to section 2(1) of the Securities Act of 1933 (1933 Act), 15 U.S.C. §§ 77b(l) (1988) (defining "security" to include "investment contracts"), and section 3(a)(10) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (1934 Act), 15 U.S.C. § 78c(a)(10) (1988)(same). Plaintiffs further allege that CL's solicitation of Lee Way employees to accept an interest in the CL ESOP as part of the Wage Reduction Program constituted a sale of an unregistered security and securities fraud in violation of

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[2]Plaintiffs also seek $65 million from the defendants for fraud in the loss of their jobs and conversion of credit union and insurance deductions and $120 million in exemplary damages. Doc. 111 (Second Amended Complaint) at 49.

Sections 5 and 17(A) of the 1933 Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 77e, 77q(a), and Section 10(b) of the 1934 Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b).

The defendants filed various motions to dismiss and for summary judgment challenging plaintiffs' threshold assertion that their ESOP interests were investment contracts subject to protection under the 1933 and 1934 Acts (collectively 'Securities Acts"). The district court denied these motions, but did hold that in order to prove that their interests in the CL ESOP were investment contracts, plaintiffs would have to demonstrate that the ESOP was "a voluntary contributory (employee benefit] plan [that] otherwise fit within the definition of a security." Hupp v. Commercial Lovelace Motor Freight, No. CIV-84-2807-A (W.D. Okla. Aug. 1, 1986)(1986 Order). The district court then ordered a segmented trial "limited to the factual issues as to whether the ESOP is a security" under this legal standard. Id.

Following a bench trial on this issue in December 1987, the district court ruled that plaintiffs' ESOP interests were not investment contracts and hence not securities under federal law. Uselton v. Commercial Lovelace Motor Freight, Inc., CIV-84-2807-P (W.D. Okla. Jan. 29, 1988)(1988 Order). In reaching this result, the district court relied on its finding that the CL ESOP was a compulsory, noncontributory employee benefit plan and on the Supreme Court's holding in International Brotherhood of Teamsters v. Daniel, 439 U.S. 551 (1979), that such plans do not qualify as investment contracts under the three-part test first enunciated by the Court in SEC v. W. J. Howey Co., 328 U.S. 293 (1946). 1988 Order at 14. The district court then entered judgment against plaintiffs' federal securities claims and dismissed their state law claims for lack of jurisdiction. Plaintiffs timely appealed this

judgment. The Pepsico defendants[3] cross-appealed the district court's denial of their post-trial motion for costs and fees.

The parties have stipulated that the CL ESOP is an employee benefit plan that CL created and funded in March 1983 by issuing 4,001,000 shares (just more than fifty percent) of its common stock to the Central National Bank of Cleveland, Ohio, as Trustee for the plan. In return, CL received five promissory notes (Trust Notes) from the Trustee, each in the amount of $150,000, which were to mature serially from 1984 to 1988. Initially, CL held all of the plan's CL stock in pledge as security for the Trust Notes. As each Trust Note matured, however, the CL ESOP agreement required CL either to forgive the Trust Note then maturing or to make a cash contribution to the CL

[3]The Pepsico defendants are Pepsico, Inc., S.E. Schroder, James English, Lawrence Dickie, Judy Norman-Davis and Richard Campbell.

ESOP in the amount of the Trust Note so that the Trustee could pay off the Trust Note by redelivering the funds to CL. Once the annual Trust Note was paid by either of these methods, the ESOP agreement required CL to release 800,000 shares of the pledged stock to the ESOP to be allocated to the individual accounts of ESOP participants according to a formula stated in the ESOP agreement. This allocation formula was based on the ratio of each participant's compensation for a given year to the total compensation of all participants for that year. In the two years the CL ESOP operated, 1,600,000 CL shares were released to the ESOP and allocated to ESOP participants through these procedures. Under the terms of the ESOP, these allocations vested immediately with the ESOP participants.

All shares allocated to participating employees through the ESOP were derived from those initially issued to the Trust. No proceeds from the Program's

wage reduction requirement were used to purchase CL stock or to otherwise fund the CL ESOP, no CL shares were ever purchased by the Trustee on the open market and no CL shares other than those initially issued by CL to the Trustee were ever acquired by the Trust. The CL ESOP agreement also prohibited participants from making direct monetary contributions to the CL ESOP and no such employee contributions were ever made. As an employee benefit plan, the CL ESOP was subject to regulation under the Employment Securities Income Retirement Program (ERISA), 29 U.S.C. SS 1001-1461 (1988).

Discussion

The principal issue in this appeal and cross-appeal is whether the district court was correct in holding that plaintiffs, interests in the CL ESOP were not investment contracts and hence not "securities" subject to the protections of the Securities Acts. Other issues on appeal concern the district court's dismissal of

plaintiffs' Oklahoma securities claims, several of the court's evidentiary rulings and its denial of the Pepsico defendants, motion for costs and fees. We address each of these issues in turn.

A. Federal Securities Issue

The plaintiffs contend that the district court erred as a matter of law in holding that their interests in the CL ESOP were not investment contracts and hence not securities within the purview of the Securities Acts. We address this question in two steps. First, we consider the district court's holding that these ESOP interests are not investment contracts under the standards stated by the Supreme Court in Howey and Daniel. Following our conclusion that plaintiffs' ESOP interests are securities under these standards, we proceed to a legal question not reached by the district court, which is whether these interests are nonetheless outside the reach of the Securities Acts due to their regulation under ERISA.

In addressing these issues, we consider questions

of law de novo, while reviewing the district court's decision on questions of fact under the clearly erroneous standard. Las Vegas Ice & Cold Storage Co. v. Far West Bank, 893 F.2d 1182, 1185 (10th Cir. 1990). On the mixed question of whether the facts satisfy the proper legal standard, we conduct a de novo review if the question primarily involves the consideration of legal principles and apply the clearly erroneous standard if the question is primarily a factual inquiry. Love Box Co. v. Commissioner, 842 F.2d 1213, 1215 (10th Cir.), cert. denied, 488 U.S. 820 (1988).

1. Whether the plaintiffs' interests in the CL ESOP were investment contracts

Plaintiffs contend that their interests in the CL ESOP qualify as securities under the Securities Acts because they are investment contracts. Under the Supreme Court's seminal decision in SEC v. W. J. Howey Co., 328 U.S. 293 (1946), the test to determine whether a financial relationship constitutes an

investment contract is "whether the scheme involves [1] an investment of money [2] in a common enterprise [3] with profits to come solely from the efforts of others." Id. at 301; see United Hous. Found., Inc. v. Forman, 421 U.S. 837, 852 (1975); Banchart v. Hollywood Gen. Partnership, 902 F.2d 805, 807 (10th Cir. 1990). In applying this test, "the economic realities of the transaction -- rather than the names that may have been employed by the parties," are determinative. Forman, 421 U.S. at 851-52.

The Supreme Court has had one opportunity since Howey to consider whether an employee benefit plan is an investment contract and hence a security under the Securities Acts. In that case, International Brotherhood of Teamsters v. Daniel, 439 U.S. 551 (1979), the question presented was whether a participant in a company pension plan could invoke the Securities Acts as part of an effort to recover benefits under the plan. See id. at 553, 555-56. The Court held that he

could not because: (1) the participant's interest in the pension plan failed the Howey test for an investment contract; (2) there was no congressional or administrative record of such plans being subject to federal securities regulation and (3) ERISA already provided participants in such plans with the right to challenge benefit determinations. See id. at 558-70.

In applying the Howey test to the plaintiff's pension plan interest, the Court first identified the plan in question as a compulsory, noncontributory defined benefit plan. Id. at 553, 554 n.3. This description indicates that the plaintiff, as an employee of his company, had no option but to participate in the plan, that he made no cash or other type of contribution specifically to the plan, see id., and that the benefits he expected to receive from the plan were fixed without reference to the success or failure of the plan's investments. See Cunha v. Ward Foods, Inc., 545 F. Supp. 94, 99 nn.3-5 (D. Haw. 1982), aff'd in part and

rev'd in part on other grounds, 804 F.2d 1418 (9th Cir. 1986); O'Neil v. Marriott Corp., 538 F. Supp. 1026, 1030 (D. Md. 1982) (defining a voluntary plan); Tanuggi v. Grolier, Inc., 471 F. Supp. 1209, 1213 n.3 (S.D.N.Y. 1979) (defined benefit plan).

The Court determined that the plaintiff's interest in this type of employee benefit plan failed both the first and third prongs of the Howey test. The Court found that it failed Howey's initial "investment of money" requirement because the plan's noncontributory structure precluded the plaintiff from making the requisite investment at the same time that its involuntary component prevented him from making an affirmative investment decision "to give up a specific consideration in return for a separable financial interest with the characteristics of a security." Daniel, 439 U.S. at 559. The Court also considered and rejected plaintiff's alternate contention that his labor provided the necessary 'investment' in the pension plan,

concluding instead that the plan was "a relatively insignificant part of [the plaintiff's] total and indivisible compensation package, so that "[h]is decision to accept and retain covered employment may have only an attenuated relationship, if any, to perceived investment possibilities of a future pension., Id. at 560. As to Howey's final requirement, the Court held that the plaintiff's expected profits from his company's defined benefit plan were not dependent on entrepreneurial or managerial efforts of others, as required by Howey, because the plan's income consisted primarily of continuing employer contributions, "a source in no way dependent on the efforts of the [plan's) managers." Id. at 562. In addition, the Court noted that the plan at issue required participants to meet "substantial" preconditions before their interests in the plan and hence in the plan benefits vested. Id. As a result, the Court found that even if the plan benefits were considered profit on some investment by the employee,

"this profit would depend primarily on the employee's effort to meet the vesting requirements, rather than the (plan's] investment success." Id. (footnote omitted).

Since the Daniel decision, both this court and others have considered whether various types of employee benefits plans qualify as investment contracts under the Howey test. See, e.g., Salazar v. Sandia Corp., 656 F.2d 578, 581-82 (10th Cir. 1981) (compulsory, noncontributory pension plan); Black v. Payne, 591 F.2d 83, 87-88 (9th Cir.) (compulsory, contributory employee benefit plan), cert. denied, 444 U.S. 867 (1979); Cunha, 545 F. Supp. at 99-101 (voluntary, contributory plan). The consensus from these decisions is that an employee benefit plan that is either noncontributory or compulsory is not an investment contract because it does not allow a participant to make the "investment" required by the first prong of the Howey test. See, e.g., Salazar, 656 F.2d at 582. The SEC concurs in this view. See

Employee Benefit Plans, Securities Act Release No. 33-6188, 1 Fed. Sec. L. Rep. (CCH) ¶ 1051 at 2073-8 to 2073-9 (Feb. 1, 1980) [hereinafter "SEC Release No. 33-6188"]; Employee Benefit Plans, Securities Act Release No. 33-6281, 1 Fed. Sec. L. Rep. (CCH) ¶ 1052 at 2073-31 (Jan. 15, 1981) [hereinafter "SEC Release No. 33-6281"]. A number of courts have also held that certain voluntary, contributory employee benefit plans are not investment contracts, but only because specific aspects of each plan caused it to fail Howey's final requirement that the profits or benefits from the plan result from the efforts of others. See, e.g., Coward v. Colgate-Palmolive Co., 686 F.2d 1230, 1236-37 (7th Cir. 1982), cert. denied, 460 U.S. 1070 (1983); Cunha, 545 F. Supp. at 99-100; O'Neil, 538 F. Supp. at 1031; Tanuggi, 471 F. Supp. at 1214, 1216; Newkirk v. General Elec. Co., [1979-80 Transfer Binder] Fed. Sec. L. Rep. (CCH) ¶ 97,216 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 31, 1979).

In this case, the district court held that plaintiffs' interests in the CL ESOP were not investment contracts because the ESOP was neither contributory nor voluntary and thus failed Howey's "investment" requirement. 1988 Order at 14. The plaintiffs argue on appeal that both of these findings are incorrect as a matter of law, that their interests in the CL ESOP were in fact both voluntary and contributory and hence meet the first prong of the Howey test and that the ESOP otherwise satisfies Howey's requirements for establishing the existence of an investment contract. We agree with plaintiffs on each of these points.

The district court held that the CL ESOP was noncontributory because Lee Way employees made no monetary contributions to the plan through wage deductions or other means. 1988 Order at 14. This finding reflected the court's legal conclusion that an employee benefit plan must fit within the following definition of "contributory" in order to satisfy Howey's

initial "investment of money"requirement:

> 2. "Contributory'" plan means that the workers must be making payments into and enhancing the ESOP corpus, although these payments may be accomplished through some accounting system set up by the employer, the ESOP Trust or otherwise.
>
> 3. Neither lump sum [n]or periodic payments on behalf of the workers made by others will suffice for a contributory plan.
>
> 4. A mere showing that the employer obtained relief from its overhead obligation for wages, creating a savings from which it paid down the ESOP note, will not suffice.

1986 Order at 1-2.

This is an incorrect statement of Howey's "investment" requirement for two reasons. First, the district court's definition of "contributory" assumes that only direct monetary contributions will satisfy the requirement. In fact, and in spite of Howey's reference to an "investment of money," it is well established that cash is not the only form of contribution or investment

that will create an investment contract. Instead, the "investment" may take the form of "goods and services," Daniel, 439 U.S. at 560 n.12, or some other "exchange of value." Hocking v. Dubois, 885 F.2d 1449, 1471 (9th Cir. 1989), cert. denied, *110* S. Ct. 1805 (1990); see Yoder v. Orthomolecular Nutrition Inst., Inc., 751 F.2d 555, 560-61 (2d Cir. 1985) (stating that a person who commits herself to employment in return for the promise of stock in her employer's company makes the necessary investment in her company's securities to form an investment contract); Dubin v. E.F. Hutton Group, Inc., 695 F. Supp. 138, 145-44 (S.D.N.Y 1988) (holding that plaintiff's acceptance of employment based in part on the value of a promised interest in his employer's equity ownership plan resulted in the sale of a security). Thus, the fact that the terms of the CL ESOP did not permit employees to make direct monetary contributions to it is not determinative of whether Lee Way's union employees invested in or contributed to the CL ESOP

as required by the first prong of the Howey test.

The legal standard employed by the district court also errs in focusing solely on the terms of the CL ESOP to determine whether plaintiffs contributed to the plan. The proper inquiry was whether the economic realities of the transaction as a whole demonstrated an investment or "an exchange of value,, by the plaintiffs. See Forman, 421 U.S. at 849, 851; Hocking, 885 F.2d at 1471. Here, it is undisputed that the transaction in question, plaintiffs' election to participate in CL's Wage Reduction Program, required plaintiffs and Lee Way's other union employees to surrender a portion of the wages due them under a valid collective bargaining agreement in exchange for an interest in the CL ESOP and the profit-sharing plan. The economic reality of the transaction, therefore, was that plaintiffs contributed their legal right to a portion of their wages to CL in return for the right to acquire CL stock via the CL ESOP and to participate in CL's profit-sharing plan. At

least two courts have held that employee contributions of this sort constitute sufficient tangible and definable consideration to serve as an "investment" or "contribution" to an employee benefit plan for purposes of the Howey test. See Hood v. Smith's Transfer Corp., 762 F. Supp. 1274, ____ (W.D. Ky. 1991); Harris v. Republic Airlines, Inc., (1987-88 Transfer Binder] Fed. Sec. L. Rep. (CCH) ¶ 93,772 at 98,625-26 (D.D.C. May 18, 1988). We agree with this conclusion and accordingly hold, under the proper legal standard and the undisputed facts of this case, that plaintiffs' interests in the CL ESOP were contributory as a matter of law.

We also conclude as a matter of law that the district court erred in holding that plaintiffs' participation in the CL ESOP was involuntary and thus precluded them from having any investment motive in joining the plan. See 1988 Order at 14. The district court based this conclusion on its factual finding that plaintiffs felt they had no choice but to join the Wage

Reduction Program if they wanted to save Lee Way and their jobs. Id. at 13, 14. We have several difficulties with holding the CL ESOP to be an involuntary plan on this basis. First, the established definition of a voluntary plan is simply a plan that permits employees to elect whether or not to participate. See Salazar, 656 F.2d at 581; Cunha, 545 F. Supp. at 99 n.4; O'Neil, 538 F. Supp. at 1030; SEC Release No. 33-6188 at 2073-6 n.19. This definition is consistent with the Supreme Court's statement in Daniel that an investor is someone who "chose to give up a specific consideration in return for a separable financial interest with the characteristics of a security." Daniel, 439 U.S. at 559. Applying this legal standard to this case, there is no question that participation in the CL ESOP was in fact voluntary for Lee Way's union employees because each such employee had the option of either accepting CL's Wage Reduction Program or of continuing employment under the terms of the existing union contract. There is also

no question that each union employee who joined the CL ESOP gave up specific consideration, ie., a portion of his or her wages, in return for a separable financial interest in the CL ESOP. Each employee's interest in the CL ESOP, moreover, translates into an interest in CL stock, an interest having all of the characteristics of a security.[4] No more than this is required to prove that Lee Way's union employees were investors making an investment decision when they individually agreed to give up a portion of their wages in return for an interest in the CL ESOP. See id.[5]

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[4]Several courts have found that this fact alone is sufficient to establish that an ESOP interest is stock and hence is a security without reference to Howey's test for the existence of an investment contract. See Harris, [1987-88 Transfer Binder] Fed. Sec. L. Rep. (CCH) ¶ 93,772 at 98,623; Hood, 2 F. Supp. at ___; Foltz v. U.S. News & World Report, Inc., 7 F. Supp. 1143, 1159 (D.D.C. 1986). Because plaintiffs have not pleaded or argued that their ESOP interests might be a security under this alternate theory, we do not address it.

[5]This determination is also consistent with the SEC's conclusion that "[a]n employee who is given a choice whether to participate in a voluntary pension

We also disagree with the district court's legal conclusion that the plaintiffs' desire to save Lee Way and their jobs negated their otherwise voluntary decision to invest in the CL ESOP through the Wage Reduction Program. In fact, the "save the company, save our jobs" motive identified by the district court is consistent with a traditional investment motive because each is concerned with and makes an investment in the future of the company.[6] Thus, we find no basis for the district court's holding that this motive made plaintiffs' participation in the CL ESOP involuntary or otherwise

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plan, and decides to contribute a portion of his earnings or savings to such plan, has clearly made an investment decision, particularly when his contribution is invested in securities issued by his employer.'" SEC Release No. 33-6188 at 2073-10.

[6]CL itself recognized the close link between these concepts when it stated in its Lee Way solicitation materials that "a principal purpose for instituting the [Wage Reduction] Program is to provide a possibility for a return of the companies[',] profitability and to provide employees with a share of any such profits." Defendants' Ex. 20, Subex. D at 2.

prevented them from acting as investors when they elected to participate in the CL ESOP. See Hood, 762 F. Supp. at ____ (holding that employees' participation in ESOP was voluntary even though employer represented to employees that company's survival depended on employees, acceptance of wage reduction/ESOP package).[7]

Because the CL ESOP was a voluntary, contributory employee benefit plan for Lee Way's union

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[7]The district court's holding that the CL ESOP was an involuntary plan and hence not an investment contract because of the plaintiffs' desire to save their jobs is also troubling because it essentially permits employers to avoid regulation under the Securities Acts (assuming the ESOP interest would otherwise meet the Howey test) simply by persuading employees that they must contribute to the ESOP if they want to preserve the company and their jobs. The employees, however, may not have sufficient information available to them to test their employer's representations concerning the company's financial condition. It seems particularly inappropriate, therefore, to determine whether the employees' interest is a security subject to the protective disclosure and anti-fraud provisions of the Securities Acts on the basis of the employees' acceptance of these representations.

employees, their interests in the ESOP resulted from their "investment" in the ESOP, thus satisfying the first prong of Howey's test for an investment contract. See Cunha, 545 F. Supp. at 99-100. The question remains, however, whether these interests also satisfy Howey's final two requirements that these interests concern "a common enterprise" in which profits "come solely from the efforts of others." Howey, 328 U.S. at 301. The district court did not reach this question because it found Howey's initial investment requirement to be dispositive.

Upon review of the record, we hold that the plaintiffs' ESOP interests satisfy both of these requirements as a matter of law. There is no dispute that the CL ESOP qualifies as a common enterprise and thus satisfies the second prong of the Howey test. See Childers v. Northwest Airlines, Inc., 688 F. Supp. 1357, 1363 (D. Minn. 1988); Harris, [1987-88 Transfer Binder] Fed. Sec. L. Rep. (CCH) ¶ 93,772 at 98,624.

Howey's final requirement is met if the enterprise can reasonably be expected to produce profits in the form of capital appreciation or participation in earnings resulting from the investment, Forman, 421 U.S. at 852, and the success or failure of the enterprise is significantly affected by the managerial or entrepreneurial efforts of persons other than the investor.[8] See Banghart, 902 F.2d at 807; SEC v. Goldfield Deep Mines Co., 758 F.2d 459, 463 (9th Cir. 1985). Both of these requirements are met in this case because any profit on plaintiffs' ESOP interest would occur through dividend distributions and appreciation in the value of the stock allocated to their accounts, which in both cases would result primarily from the efforts

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[8]As this language suggests, Howey's requirement that profits "come solely from the efforts of others" is not read literally to prevent formation of an investment contract when the investor contributes some effort to the enterprise. See, e.g., Meyer v. Dans un Jardin, S.A., 816 F.2d 533, 535 (10th Cir. 1987); SEC v. Agua-Sonic Prods. Corp., 687 F.2d 577, 584 (2d Cir.), cert. denied, 459 U.S. 1086 (1982).

CL's managers and its employees. Thus, "[e]ach employee that invested in the [Wage Reduction Program] was dependent on the efforts of others to realize any benefits from his or her investment decision." Harris, (1987-88 Transfer Binder] Fed. Sec. L. Rep. (CCH) ¶ 93,772 at 98,624. This fact distinguishes the CL ESOP from other voluntary, contributory employee benefit plans that have failed this final prong of the Howey test. See, e.g., Coward, 686 F.2d at 1236-37; Cunha, 545 F. Supp. at 99-100;[9] O'Neil, 538 F. Supp. at 1031; Tanuggi, 471 F. Supp. at 1214, 1216; Newkirk, [1979-80 Transfer Binder] Fed. Sec. L. Rep. (CCH) ¶ 97,216.[10] Accordingly, plaintiffs'

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[9]The district court's reliance on Cunha, see 1988 Order at 14, is misplaced for this reason.

[10]Most of these cases concerned defined benefit plans that pay fixed or determinable benefits based on factors such as the age at which a participant retires, see SEC Release No. 33-6118 at 2073-7, rather than defined contribution plans, such as the CL ESOP, that provide varying benefits based on factors such as the amount of plan contributions and the plan's investment

interests in the CL ESOP satisfy this final Howey requirement. Having previously concluded that plaintiffs' interests in the CL ESOP satisfy Howey's other requirements for establishment of an investment contract, we therefore hold that these interests were investment contracts and hence securities under the Securities Acts.

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success. See, e.g., Coward, 686 F.2d at 1236-37; Cunha, 545 F. Supp. at 99-100; Tanuggi, 471 F. Supp. at 1214, 1216. The only two courts that appear to have considered whether employee interests in a voluntary, contributory defined contribution plan might satisfy the Howey test held that they did not because of plan characteristics that are not present here. See O'Neil, 538 F. Supp. at 1031 (in a "close question," no security found to exist because (1) plan's staggered vesting requirements made benefits dependent on length of service, (2) significant plan profits derived from other employees withdrawing from the plan before becoming fully vested, (3) amount of earnings on employee contributions was capped and (4) amount of benefits was significantly dependent on amount of employer, rather than employee, contribution); Newkirk, [1979-80 Transfer Binder] Fed. Sec. L. Rep. (CCH) ¶ 97,216 (apparently holding plan interests were not securities because majority of plan's income was derived solely from employer contributions and amount of benefits was dependent on employees' success in meeting vesting requirements.

The defendants contend that the Supreme Court's Daniel decision requires a different result and supports the district court's decision that plaintiffs' interests in the CL ESOP are not securities. In making this argument, they focus on the Court's rejection of the employee's assertion that the labor he provided his employer constituted an "investment'" in the employer's compulsory, noncontributory pension plan. The Court rejected this argument because:

> In a pension plan such as this one, . . . the purported investment is a relatively insignificant part of an employee's total and indivisible compensation package. . . . Only in the most abstract sense may it be said that an employee "exchanges" some portion of his labor in return for these possible benefits. He surrenders his labor as a whole, and in return receives a compensation package that is substantially devoid of aspects resembling a security. His decision to accept and retain covered employment may have only an attenuated relationship, if any, to perceived investment possibilities of a future pension. Looking at the economic realities, it seems clear that an employee is selling his labor primarily to obtain a livelihood, not making an

investment.

Daniel, 439 U.S. at 560 (footnote omitted). Similarly, defendants argue, the economic reality of this transaction is that plaintiffs sold their labor to CL in order to obtain a compensation package that only incidentally included participation in the CL ESOP.

The difficulty with this argument is that it ignores that Lee Way's union employees did more than merely contribute labor to obtain an interest in the CL ESOP. Instead, each deliberately chose to surrender his or her right to a percentage of a preexisting compensation package in return for an ESOP interest. Thus, each contributed specific consideration for his interest, rather than merely exchanging labor for an indivisible compensation plan that incidentally provided for participation in a pension plan. The Supreme Court's holding that no investment contract existed with respect to the employee benefit plan and transaction before it in Daniel is not, therefore, determinative of this same

question presented in the context of the very different plan and transaction at issue in this case.[11] For the reasons set out in our discussion of the Howey test, we also conclude that our decision that plaintiffs' voluntary, contributory participation in the CL ESOP created an investment contract under Howey's three-part test is fully consistent with the Supreme Court's statement and application of that test in Daniel.[12]

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[11]The Daniel Court's holding regarding the third Howey requirement, concerning profit from the efforts of others, is also inapplicable here due to the differences between the CL ESOP and the pension plan at issue in Daniel. In Daniel, the pension fund's "income" consisted almost entirely of employer contributions, rather than profits generated by the efforts of the fund managers, and the employee's expectation of profits, if any, depended primarily on his or her success in meeting the plan's vesting requirements, rather than on the fund's investment success. 439 U.S. at 561-62. In this case, in contrast, the plaintiffs' right to the stock they received via the CL ESOP vested immediately and any profits they received on their ESOP investment were directly attributable to the efforts of CL and its managers.

[12]Defendants also cite In re Crionin, 877 F.2d 594 (7th Cir. 1989), Childers v. Northwest Airlines, Inc., 688 F. Supp. 1357 (D. Minn. 1988) and Bauman v. Bish, 571

Our decision that the CL ESOP is an investment contract is also consistent with Daniel for another reason. In that case, the Supreme Court concluded that plaintiff's pension plan interest was not a security in

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F. Supp. 1054 (N.D. W. Va. 1983) for the proposition that an employee's acceptance of a wage reduction in return for participation in an ESOP is an employment/compensation agreement rather than an investment in a security. Each of these cases is distinguishable. In both Bauman and Childers, the district courts held that an employee's acceptance of a wage reduction as part of a modified, union-approved compensation package that included participation in an ESOP did not constitute value, sufficient to establish the "sale" of an ESOP interest under the Securities Acts. See Childers, 688 F. Supp. at 1363; Bauman, 571 F. Supp. at 1064. These cases are thus distinguishable in that employee-participants in these plans did not make individual investment decisions and in the courts' examination of their investment in the context of determining whether a sale occurred rather than whether a security existed in the first instance. See id. In re Crippin is even more readily distinguishable because it considered the effect of an employee's wage-reduction-for-ESOP-interest exchange only for purposes of determining whether the exchange was an executory contract that could be rejected as part of an employee-participant's bankruptcy. 877 F.2d at 596-97. To the extent these cases are not distinguishable, we also simply disagree that plaintiffs, wage concessions in this case were not investments that led to the creation of investment contracts under Howey.

part because there was no administrative or congressional record interests in such plans being subject to regulation under the Securities Acts. See id. at 563-69. As the Daniel Court noted, however, this is not true as to voluntary, contributory employee benefit plans. See id. The SEC has long distinguished voluntary, contributory employee benefit plans from other types of benefit plans and maintained that such voluntary, contributory plans are "securities" for purposes of the Securities Acts.[13] This consistent and

[13] The SEC first stated this position as early as 1941, Opinions of SEC Assistant General Counsel, (1941-44 Transfer Binder] Fed. Sec. L. Serv. (CCH) ¶ 75,195 (1941), reprinted in 1 Pens. Plan Guide (CCH) ¶ 1104.101 at 2404-05 (1986) (stating that certain voluntary contributory employee stock investment plans were investment contracts subject to federal securities regulation); see Hearings on Proposed Amendments to the Securities Act of 1933 and to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 Before the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, 77th Cong., 1st Sess. 894-97 (1941) (testimony of Commissioner Purcell), and reiterated this view in 1953 and 1962, see Letter to CCH from Assistant Director, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities Exchange Commission (May 12, 1953), 1 Pens. Plan Guide (CCH) ¶ 1104.102 at 2406

long-standing agency interpretation of the status of employee interests in voluntary, contributory employee benefit plans under the Securities Acts is entitled to considerable weight unless it violates the "clear meaning of [the] statute, as revealed by its language, purpose, and history." Daniel, 439 U.S. at 566 n.20; see also United States v. National Ass'n of Sec. Dealers, Inc., 422 U.S. 694, 719 (1975).

Congress has also long demonstrated its belief and implied intent that at least some employee benefit

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(1986); Letter to CCH from Chief Counsel, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities Exchange Commission (Aug. 1, 1962), 1 Pens. Plan Guide (CCH) 1 1104.103 at 2406 (1986), and again in 1979 in successful opposition to a proposal to amend ERISA and the Securities Acts to exclude interests in employee benefits plans from the Securities Acts' antifraud provisions. See Hearings on S. 209 Before the Senate Committee on Human Resources, 96th Cong., 1st Sess. 657-74 (1979) (statement of Harold M. Williams, Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission). The SEC again expressed its view that employee interests in voluntary contributory employee benefit plans are securities in two releases issued after and in response to the Supreme Court's decision in Daniel. See SEC Release No. 33-6188 at 2073-9; SEC Release No. 33-6288 at 2073-31.

plans, and particularly voluntary, contributory plans, are subject to federal securities regulation. In 1934, for example, it rejected an express attempt to exempt employee stock investment plans from the definition of securities under the Acts, basing this decision "on the ground that the participants in [such] plans may be in as great a need of the protection afforded by availability of information concerning the issuer for which they work as are most other members of the public." H.R. Conf. Rep. No. 1838, 73d Cong., 2d Sess. 41 (1934). In 1970, Congress also recognized by implication that some employee benefit plans were subject to the Securities Acts when it amended the 1933 Act to exempt certain employee benefit plans from the Act's registration requirements. See Pub. L. No. 91-547 (Dec. 14, 1970) and Pub. L. No. 91-567 (Dec. 22, 1970), codified at 1933 Securities Act, § 3(a)(2), 15 U.S.C. § 77c(a)(2). Congress' consideration and rejection of a bill that would have expressly exempted interests in all

employee benefit plans from the antifraud provisions of the Securities Acts is also evidence that it considered at least some such interests to be otherwise subject to regulation under these Acts. See S.209, 96th Cong., 1st Sess. (Feb. 8, 1979). In a report analyzing the need to enact ERISA, the Senate focused on the plans subject to such regulation when it described its understanding that "[p]ension and profit-sharing plans are exempt from coverage under the Securities Act of 1933. . . unless the plan is a voluntary contributory pension plan and invests in the securities of the employer company in an amount greater than that paid into the plan by the employer."[14] Interim Report of Activities of the Private Welfare and

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[14] The latter reference to the amount of the plan's investment in the employer's securities apparently relates to the requirements for establishing the plan's exemption from the Securities Act registration requirements under the 1970 amendment described above. See 15 U.S.C. § 77c(a)(2). It has no apparent relevance to the definition of employee benefit plans subject to the Securities Acts' antifraud provisions.

Pension Plan Study, 1971, S. Rep. No. 634, 92d Cong., 2d Sess. 96 (1972) (emphasis added). Thus, unlike the situation in Daniel, the administrative and congressional record regarding the employee benefit plan at issue here, the voluntary, contributory CL ESOP, supports our decision that the plaintiffs, interests in this plan are securities.

2. The effect of alternate federal regulation of plaintiffs' ESOP interests under ERISA

Even if the district court erred in concluding that plaintiffs' interests in the CL ESOP were not investment contracts, its judgment that plaintiffs, ESOP interests fall outside the protection of the Securities Acts may nonetheless be affirmed if the "context" of these interests supports this result. 15 U.S.C. §§ 77b(l), 78c(a)(10) (defining an "investment contract" to be a federally protected "security" "unless the context otherwise requires"). In Holloway v. Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., 879 F.2d 772 (10th Cir. 1989)

(Holloway I), we relied on this language as interpreted by the Supreme Court in Marine Bank v. Weaver, 455 U.S. 551, 557-59 (1982), and Daniel, 439 U.S. at 569-70, to hold that [e]ven if the instruments [at issue] potentially qualify as securities because of the factual circumstances underlying the transactions, the context of other federal regulation may still remove these instruments from the federal securities laws." Holloway I, 879 F.2d at 783.[15]. In this case, it is undisputed that

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[15] While this appeal was pending, the Supreme Court vacated the judgment in Holloway I and remanded the case for further consideration in light of Reves v. Ernst & Young, 494 U.S. 56 (1990). See Peat Marwick Main & Co. v. Holloway, 110 S. Ct. 1314 (1990). Reves, like Holloway I, concerned the circumstances under which an instrument categorized as a "note" will be considered a "security" within the meaning of the federal securities laws. See Reves, 110 S. Ct. at 948; Holloway I, 879 F.2d at 777. In Reves, the Court adopted a "family resemblance" test for determining when a note is a security." Reves, 110 S. Ct. at 951. This test initially presumes that a note is a security, but provides that the presumption may be rebutted by reference to four factors, the last of which is "whether some factor such as the existence of another regulatory scheme significantly reduces the risk of the instrument, thereby rendering application of the

the CL ESOP and plaintiffs' rights as participants in this ESOP are extensively regulated under ERISA, thus requiring us to determine whether this alternate federal regulation removes the plaintiffs' CL ESOP-investment

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Securities Acts unnecessary." Id. at 951-52. In Holloway I, this court employed a similar test, but structured it in two parts, with the first part looking solely at the "security" question, while the second, as described above, focused on the consequences of any alternate federal regulation. See Holloway I, 879 F.2d at 775-83, 783-88.

On remand of Holloway I, we reaffirmed our earlier judgment upon finding that our original analysis had adequately addressed the four Reves factors. Holloway v. Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., 900 F.2d 1485, 1487-88 (10th Cir.) (Holloway II), cert. denied, 111 S. Ct. 386 (1990). In so doing, we implicitly adopted our earlier analysis in Holloway I. See id. at 1488 & n.l. Because Reves contains no language undercutting the premise of Holloway I's federal regulatory analysis, which is that the existence of alternate federal regulation will in some cases prevent an erstwhile security from being regulated under the Securities Acts, see Holloway I, 879 F.2d at 778, 783, we find that this analysis is still valid and may be relied upon in this case. See Marine Bank, 455 U.S. at 558-59 (federal bank regulations providing investors with abundant protection from fraud sufficient to prevent bank certificate of deposit from being subject to Securities Acts); Daniel, 439 U.S. at 569-70 (ERISA regulation of compulsory, noncontributory pension plan one factor in holding that plan was not a security).

contracts from the realm of federal securities laws.

The test under Holloway I for determining whether the existence and application of nonsecurities-related federal regulation bars application of the Securities Acts is whether "such alternate federal regulation accomplishes the same purposes as the securities laws, thereby making the securities laws' protections for investors duplicative and unnecessary." Holloway I, 879 F.2d at 778 (citing and construing Marine Bank, 455 U.S. at 557-59; Daniel, 439 U.S. at 569-70); see also Holloway I, 879 P.2d at 783-84, 786. As we described in Holloway I, the fundamental purpose of these laws is protection of the investor "'from the sale of worthless securities through misrepresentation.'" Id. at 786 (quoting Gary Plastic Packaging Corp. V. Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Inc., 756 F.2d 230, 237 (2d Cir. 1985)). The Securities Acts achieve this purpose by two means: (1) requiring disclosure to investors of "relevant, accurate

information upon which to base an investment decision" and (2) providing "meaningful remedies for investors when the antifraud provisions of the laws have been violated." Id. at 786. If alternate federal regulation "abundantly protects" the investor on both of these counts, then this regulation may displace application of the federal securities laws. Id. (citing Marine Bank, 455 U.S. at 558-59). The purpose behind at least the first of the Securities Acts' protective provisions may also be served if, in lieu of full disclosure to investors of relevant, accurate information upon which to base an investment decision, investors are protected by another entity that acts on their behalf to monitor the issuing entity and to take corrective actions to protect their investments." Id.

Plaintiffs argue that ERISA does not displace application of the Securities Acts in this case for two reasons. First, they contend that ERISA does not provide the necessary "abundant protection" for their

investment in the CL ESOP as required by Holloway I. Second, they argue that even if ERISA did provide such protection, this duplicate federal regulation does not prevent application of the Securities Act in this case because both Congress and the SEC have indicated that voluntary, contributory employee benefit plans, such as CL ESOP, are subject to federal securities regulation notwithstanding the existence of possibly duplicative ERISA regulation. The Pepsico defendants argue in turn that both of these arguments must fail, and that the district court's judgment must be affirmed, because the Supreme Court previously decided in Daniel that ERISA preempts application of the Securities Acts to all forms of employee benefit plans. Each of these arguments is discussed below.

a. Investor protection under ERISA

In Holloway I, we held that alternate federal regulation must fulfill both the disclosure and remedial purposes of the Securities Acts before it will displace

the protections offered by these Acts. 879 F.2d at 786. The first of these purposes is met if the alternate federal regulation either compels the disclosure of relevant, accurate information upon which to base an investment decision, or allows the federal regulators to act on behalf of investors "to monitor the issuing entity and to take corrective actions to protect their investments." Id. In this case, defendants argue that the extensive disclosure and reporting requirements imposed on plan administrators under ERISA satisfy this requirement. As plaintiffs point out, however, all of these disclosure requirements apply only to individuals who are already participants or beneficiaries[16] of an

[16]ERISA defines a "participant" as "any employee or former employee of an employer . . . who is or may become eligible to receive a benefit of any type from an employee benefit plan which covers employees of such employer or members of such organization, or whose beneficiaries may be eligible to receive any such benefit." 29 U.S.C. § 1002(7). For an individual to be a "participant" under the "may become eligible" portion of this definition, the individual "must have a colorable claim that (1) he or she will prevail in a suit for

ERISA-regulated benefit plan.[17] See 29 U.S.C. §1021(a)(1988); 29 C.F.R. Part 2520, Subpart F (1990); see Childers, 688 F. Supp. at 1361 (ERISA disclosure provisions only extend to plan participants and beneficiaries). Thus, ERISA, unlike the Securities Acts, does not require plan administrators or promoters to provide any information about the plan to individuals who are considering whether to become plan participants. See 15 U.S.C. S 77e(b) (requiring issuer of security to provide prospectus to potential investor unless security is exempt from registration).

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benefits, or that (2) eligibility requirements will be fulfilled in the future." Firestone Tire & Rubber Co. v. Bruch, 109 S. Ct. 948, 958 (1989). ERISA defines a "beneficiary" as "a person designated by a participant, or by the terms of an employee benefit plan, who is or may become entitled to a benefit thereunder." 29 U.S.C. § 1002(8).

[17]This point is emphasized by the fact that ERISA only requires a plan administrator to provide plan information to new plan participants within 90 days after the individual joins the plan. 29 U.S.C. § 1024(b).

The focus of ERISA's disclosure requirements, moreover, is on informing plan participants of their rights and obligations under the plan, and not on distributing information regarding the plan's financing or its financial soundness. See 29 U.S.C. § 1022(b) (only financial information required to be disclosed to participants under ERISA is "the source of financing of the plan and the identity of any organization through which benefits are provided"); 29 C.F.R. § 2520.102-3(q)(same). Although detailed financial information, such as that subject to disclosure under the Securities Acts, see 15 U.S.C. §§ 77e, g, 77aa (Schedule A),[18] is available to an ERISA plan participant upon request, see 29 U.S.C. § 1024(b)(2), (4)(plan administrator must provide participants with plan's annual report upon request); id. at § 1023

[18] Schedule A requires the issuer of a security to provide a potential investor, among other things, with a copy of its most recent balance sheet and profit and loss statement. 15 U.S.C. § 77aa(25), (26).

(requiring annual report to include detailed financial information), it is not automatically provided to plan participants or available at all to prospective participants. Accordingly, ERISA does not, as Holloway I and the Securities Acts require, compel the disclosure of relevant, accurate information upon which to base an investment decision." Holloway I, 879 F.2d at 786.

It is less clear whether ERISA nonetheless satisfies the information disclosure purpose of the Securities Acts by granting federal regulators sufficient authority to monitor ERISA plans and to take corrective action on behalf of plan "investors." See id. The necessary monitoring authority may be provided by virtue of ERISA's requirement that plan administrators file annual reports with the Secretary of Labor. See 29 U.S.C. § 1023. The Secretary's authority to enforce ERISA's funding requirements and fiduciary responsibilities on plan administrators by

civil or administrative action, see id. § 1132(a)(2), (5); see also id. §§ 1081-1086 (funding requirements), 1101-1114 (fiduciary duties), also provides federal regulators with some authority to take "corrective action" on behalf of plan participants "to protect their investments." See Holloway I, 879 F.2d at 786. In order for this corrective action authority to take the place of the Securities Acts' disclosure provisions, however, it must essentially guarantee the individual's investment. Holloway I, 879 F.2d at 788; see Marine Bank, 455 U.S. at 558-59 (federal banking regulations guaranteeing certificates of deposit displaces federal securities regulation of these certificates). The Secretary's authority to enforce ERISA's funding and fiduciary obligations does not meet this standard with respect to ESOP investments because the value of these investments is entirely dependent on the value of the employer company's stock, and hence on the financial soundness and future prospects of the

employer itself, rather than on the employer's continued funding and proper management of plan assets. Accordingly, the Secretary's monitoring and corrective authority under ERISA does not provide "the 'virtual guarantee' necessary to displace the protection of the securities laws" and its disclosure provisions. Holloway I, 879 F.2d at 788 (quoting Marine Bank, 455 U.S. at 558-59).

Even if the Secretary's monitoring and enforcement authority under ERISA fulfilled the underlying purpose of the Securities Acts' disclosure requirements, we would still find that ERISA does not satisfy Holloway I's test for displacement of the Securities Acts because it fails to provide a meaningful remedy to plan participants who allege that plan administrators or promoters acted fraudulently in inducing them to join the plan. See Holloway I, 879 F.2d at 786 ("[T]he purposes of the federal securities acts cannot be effectively carried out

unless the alternate federal regulation provides for a meaningful [antifraud] remedy to investors.") The Securities Acts provide such a remedy through section 10(b) of the 1934 Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b), and SEC Rule lOb-5, 17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5 (1990), which together authorize private damage actions by investors to recover from persons who make untrue statements of material facts or otherwise act fraudulently in connection with the purchase or Bale of a security. See Holloway I, 879 F.2d at 786; see generally T. Hazen, The Law of Securities Regulation § 13.2 (2d ed. 1990). The Securities Acts also permit investors fraudulently induced to enter into an investment transaction to rescind that transaction and recover the amount of their investment. See, e.g., Hatrock v. Edward D. Jones & Co., 750 F.2d 767, 773 n.4 (9th Cir. 1984); see generally Hazen at § 13.7.

Neither the parties nor our research has produced any authority indicating that ERISA provides

such a remedy for misrepresentation or other fraudulent acts committed in connection with an individual's decision to join an ERISA-regulated plan. ERISA's civil enforcement provision grants plan participants and beneficiaries the right to bring a private action to recover benefits under a plan, see 29 U.S.C. § 1132(a)(1); to enforce ERISA's plan disclosure, funding, and administrative requirements, see id. § 1132(a)(3), (4); and to obtain "appropriate relief" for breach of fiduciary duty by an ERISA plan administrator or other person who exercises discretionary control or authority over the plan or its assets. See id. §§ 1132(a)(2), 1109 (ERISA liability for breach of fiduciary duty), 1002(21) (defining fiduciary). Only this latter provision regarding breach of fiduciary duty might possibly address fraud committed in connection with an investor's initial decision to join an ERISA plan. Those courts that have considered the issue, however, have held that the

fiduciary relationship necessary to state such a claim does not come into existence until an individual becomes an ERISA plan participant, thus denying participants an ERISA remedy for fraud or misrepresentation that occurred before and in connection with their decision to join the plan. See Isaac v. Life Investors Ins. Co., 749 F. Supp. 855, 863 (E.D. Tenn. 1990); Coleman v. General Elec. Co., 643 F. Supp. 1229, 1235 (E.D. Tenn. 1986), aff'd, 822 F.2d 59 (6th Cir. 1987); see also Klank v. Sears, Roebuck & Co., 735 F. Supp. 260, 263 (N.D. Ill. 1990) (employee who was neither a plan participant nor a beneficiary could not state an ERISA claim against his employer for failure to provide him with information regarding participation in the employer's ERISA plan).

Other authority regarding this issue also indicates that ERISA does not provide a remedy for the type of misconduct that is alleged in this case and

is prohibited by the Securities Acts.[19]

In Perry v. P*I*E Nationwide, Inc., 872 F.2d 157 (6th Cir. 1989), cert. denied, 110 S. Ct. 1166 (1990), for example, plaintiffs, like the plaintiffs in this case, were employees of a long-distance motor carrier that successfully solicited them to accept a significant wage reduction in return for participation in an ERISA-recalculated ESOP. Id. at 158-59. After the company took actions in conflict with representations allegedly made to plaintiffs-employees during the

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[19] Numerous other courts have held that ERISA does not preempt state law claims for fraud in the inducement because such claims are too tenuous and remote to the ERISA plan to be related to' the plan as required for preemption under section 1144 of the statute. See, e.g., Perkins v. Time Ins. Co., 898 F.2d 470, 473 (5th Cir. 1990); Martin v. Pate, 749 F. Supp. 242, 246 (S.D. Ala. 1990); Greenblatt v. Budd Co., 666 F. Supp. 735, 742 (E.D. Pa. 1987); Miller v. Lay Trucking Co., 606 F. Supp. 1326, 1333 (N.D. Ind. 1985). This precedent again suggests that ERISA is not directed to prevention of the sort of preparticipation fraud and misrepresentation that would be actionable under the Securities Acts.

solicitation process, plaintiffs sought rescission of their plan participation and restitution of the agreed wage reduction under theories of common law fraud and misrepresentation. Id. at 158-59, 161-62. The defendant employer moved to dismiss the action on the ground that these state law claims were preempted by section 1144(a) of ERISA because they "related to" an ERISA-regulated plan. See id. at 158. The district court denied the motion on the ground that plaintiffs' claims related to the manner in which the defendant employer procured plaintiffs, agreement to the wage reduction program rather than to the administration of the ESOP or plaintiffs' benefits under the plan. Id. at 159. The Sixth Circuit affirmed this result because "[g]iving plaintiffs the benefit of some doubt in this respect, we are uncertain whether 29 U.S.C. § 1132 provides, under the circumstances of this case, an adequate remedy to redress the wrongs claimed, specifically, rescission

and refund of wage reductions."[20] Id. at 162.

Even if ERISA did permit a cause of action for rescission of an employee's participation in a plan and restitution of his or her contributions in cases of fraudulent inducement, there is a split in the circuits as to whether this or any other claim for breach of fiduciary duty can be brought against parties who are not, in fact, plan fiduciaries as defined by ERISA. Compare Nieto v. Ecker, 845 F.2d 868, 873 (9th Cir. 1988) (nonfiduciaries are not liable under ERISA) with Brock v. Hendershott, 840 F.2d 339, 342 (6th Cir.

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[20] As the Pepsico defendants point out in their supplemental brief, Supplemental Brief for Certain Appellees at 18, this court has previously held that ERISA permits the remedies of rescission and restitution in at least some circumstances. See Eaves v. Penn, 587 F.2d 453, 462 (10th Cir. 1978). In that case, however, the court only approved these remedies in the context of a request by plan participants to rescind a plan amendment and to restore funds lost to the plan as a result of the amendment. See id. at 463. Eaves did not, therefore, concern an attempt under ERISA to rescind participation in a plan or to recover employee contributions to a plan and is thus readily distinguishable from this case.

1988) (nonfiduciaries are liable under ERISA) and Lowen v. Tower Asset Management, Inc., 829 F.2d 1209, 1220 (2d Cir. 1987) (same). ERISA defines a plan fiduciary as a person who

> [1] exercises any discretionary authority or discretionary control respecting management of such plan or exercises any authority or control respecting management or disposition of its assets, [2] renders investment advice for a fee or other compensation . . . with respect to any moneys or other property of such plan, or has authority or responsibility to do so, or [3] has any discretionary authority or discretionary responsibility in the administration of such plan.

29 U.S.C. § 1002(21)(A). Under this definition, at least some of the defendants in this case, including Pepsico and its officers and directors, are likely to be deemed nonfiduciaries under the statute. Given the uncertainty of their amenity to suit under ERISA,[21] it

[21] It is possible that the Pepsico defendants could qualify as "parties in interest" with CL, see 29 U.S.C. § 1002(14) (defining "party in interest"), such that certain transactions between these parties and CL, as plan

cannot be said that ERISA "abundantly" protects plaintiffs by providing them with a remedy for fraud allegedly committed by these defendants and others in inducing plaintiffs to join the CL ESOP.[22]

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administrator, would constitute violations of the statute potentially subject to redress by a court. See Nieto, 845 F.2d at 873-74. The parties to this action did not address this possibility, however, and we cannot address it sua sponte under the present record.

[22] In their supplemental brief, plaintiffs also suggest that relief may not be available to them under ERISA because there is a split of authority as to whether an employee may bring an ERISA action challenging oral or written misrepresentations regarding an ERISA-regulated plan. See Appellants' Supplemental Brief on the Impact of ERISA at 21. In each of the cases cited, however, the issue was whether a plan participant could sue to enforce alleged ERISA plan provisions that were stated either orally or in the plan's summary description but conflicted with the terms of the plan itself. See, e.g., Straub v. Western Union Tel. Co., 851 F.2d 1262, 1265 (10th Cir. 1988) (oral modification); Nachwalter v. Christie, 805 F.2d 956, 960 (llth Cir. 1986) (same); Gors v. Venoy Palmer Market, Inc., 578 F. Supp. 365, 368 (E.D. Mich. 1984) (conflict between summary description and plan itself); O'Brien v. Sperry Univac, 458 F. Supp. 1179, 1180 (D.D.C. 1978) (same). In this case, plaintiffs are suing to rescind their participation in a plan based on alleged oral misrepresentations, rather than suing to enforce those

As discussed above, Holloway I only permits ERISA to displace federal securities regulation of the CL ESOP and other employee benefit plans if ERISA duplicates the protection offered to plaintiffs by the Securities Acts' disclosure and antifraud provisions. ERISA fails both of these tests. Accordingly, we hold that ERISA does not provide sufficient protection to plan participants to displace application of federal securities laws to plaintiffs' interests in the CL ESOP.

b. Continued federal regulation of voluntary, contributory employee benefit plans under both ERISA and the Securities Acts

Plaintiffs also argue in the alternative that even if ERISA duplicates the investor protection provided to plaintiffs by the Securities Acts, this duplication has no

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representations. Thus, to the extent that there is a split among the circuits regarding the effect of oral or written representations on plan terms and conditions, it is irrelevant to the issue before this court.

effect on the "securities" status of interests in voluntary, contributory employee benefit plans such as the CL ESOP. They base this claim on the SEC's assertion, even after ERISA, that these types of plans continue to be subject to regulation under the Securities Acts. See, e.g., SEC Release No. 33-6188 at 2073-9 to 2073-11. As noted earlier, this agency interpretation of its regulatory authority is entitled to considerable weight unless it violates "the clear meaning of [the] statute, as revealed by its language, purpose, and history."[23] Daniel, 439 U.S. at 566 n.20; see also National Ass'n of Sec. Dealers, 422 U.S. at 719.

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[23] We disagree with the SEC's contention, however, that all voluntary, contributory employee benefit plans qualify as investment contracts under Howey. The voluntary, contributory aspect of such plans satisfies Howey's "investment of money" requirement, but is not determinative of each plan's compliance with Howey's final requirement that profits from this investment result from the efforts of others. See Howey, 328 U.S. at 301. Depending on the specific terms of the plan, therefore, some voluntary, contributory employee interests will not qualify as investment contracts under the Howey test. See n.10 supra and accompanying text.

In fact, there is evidence that Congress intended for the SEC to continue regulating employee benefit plans that qualified as securities even after ERISA. In ERISA itself, for example, Congress expressly excluded state securities regulation from preemption under the statute, thus permitting states that had followed the SEC in finding interests in voluntary, contributory plans to be securities to continue in this practice.[24] See 29 U.S.C. § 1144(b)(2)(A). In section 1144(d), Congress further provided that ERISA was not intended to supersede any existing federal law, thus allowing the SEC to continue regulating qualifying employee benefit plans as it always had. See id. § 1144(d). In 1979, Congress also considered and rejected a bill that, among other provisions, would have amended ERISA to specifically remove interests in employee benefit plans

[24] As plaintiffs point out, it makes little sense for Congress to have permitted the states this latitude while intending that ERISA preempt federal securities regulation of interests in these same types of plans.

from the definition of security, for purposes of the antifraud provisions of the Securities Acts. See S. 209, 96th Cong., 1st Sess. (Feb. 8, 1979). These congressional actions are consistent with the SEC's determination that at least some voluntary, contributory plans are investment contracts subject to federal securities regulation and support plaintiffs' claim that Congress knew and approved of continued SEC regulation of such plans when it enacted ERISA in 1974. We therefore hold that even if ERISA duplicates the investor protection offered by the Securities Acts to the plaintiffs in this case, this alternate federal regulation does not prevent plaintiffs from establishing that their interests in the voluntary, contributory CL ESOP are securities or bar them from invoking the Securities Acts to protect these interests.

The Pepsico defendants again rely on the Supreme Court's decision in Daniel to argue against both this result and our general holding that ERISA has

no effect on the status of plaintiffs' ESOP interests as securities. In particular, these defendants maintain that Daniel essentially decided that interests in all employee benefit plans, including voluntary, contributory plans, are not subject to regulation under the Securities Acts. This position is based on the Court's statements concerning ERISA's effect on the status of involuntary, noncontributory pension plans under the Securities Acts:

> If any further evidence were needed to demonstrate that pension plans of the type involved [a compulsory, noncontributory plan] are not subject to the Securities Acts, the enactment of ERISA in 1974, would put the matter to rest. Unlike the Securities Acts, ERISA deals expressly and in detail with pension plans. ERISA requires pension plans to disclose specified information to employees in a specified manner, in contrast to the indefinite and uncertain disclosure obligations imposed by the antifraud provisions of the Securities Acts. Further, ERISA regulates the substantive terms of pension plans, setting standards for plan funding and limits on the eligibility requirements an employee must meet. For example, with respect to the underlying issue in this case--whether respondent served long enough to receive a pension--§ 203(a) of ERISA now sets the minimum level of benefits an employee must receive after accruing specified years of service, and § 203(b) governs

> continuous-service requirements. Thus, if respondent had retired after § 1053 took effect, the Fund would have been required to pay him at least a partial pension. The Securities Acts, on the other hand, do not purport to set the substantive terms of financial transactions.
>
> The existence of this comprehensive legislation governing the use and terms of employee pension plans severely undercuts all arguments for extending the Securities Acts to noncontributory, compulsory pension plans. Congress believed that it was filling a regulatory void when it enacted ERISA, a belief which the SEC actively encouraged. Not only is the extension of the Securities Acts by the court below unsupported by the language and history of those Acts, but in light of ERISA it serves no general purpose. Whatever benefits employees might derive from the effect of the Securities Acts are now provided in more definite form through ERISA.
>
> We hold that the Securities Acts do not apply to a noncontributory, compulsory pension plan.

Daniel, 439 U.S. at 569-70 (citations omitted).

Contrary to the Pepsico defendants, assertion, this language indicates that Daniel's ultimate holding, as well as most of its statements regarding the interplay between ERISA and the Securities Acts, are limited to

the status of noncontributory, compulsory plans under these Acts. To the extent that the Court's broader statements comparing ERISA and the Acts, disclosure and remedial provisions are more than dicta, they are also distinguishable from this case because of the differences between the claims made in Daniel and those made here. In Daniel, the plaintiff was seeking to recover benefits under a pension plan on the grounds that the defendants had misrepresented certain aspects of his eligibility for plan benefits. See 439 U.S. at 554-555, 569. As the Supreme Court noted in the language quoted above, this is precisely the type of claim that ERISA is intended to address. In this case, on the other hand, plaintiffs seek return of their investment in the CL ESOP, rather than a determination of the benefits due them under that benefit plan, on the ground that defendants committed fraud in inducing them initially to enter into the plan. As described earlier in this opinion, ERISA does not

provide a remedy for this type of fraudulent behavior. Accordingly, Daniel does not require us to hold that ERISA provides such ample investor protection to plaintiffs' interests in the CL ESOP that it displaces regulation of these interests under the Securities Acts.

B. Other Issues on Appeal

Both plaintiffs and the Pepsico defendants also raise a number of additional issues on appeal. Plaintiffs first contend that the district court erred by dismissing their claims under the Oklahoma Securities Act on grounds of federal preemption, and then urge us to hold, as a matter of law, that their ESOP interests are securities under this act. The record, however, indicates that the district court dismissed plaintiffs' state security claims upon finding no basis for federal jurisdiction after dismissal of the federal securities claims, rather than on the basis of federal preemption. 1988 Order at 14-15. Given this record and our holding that dismissal of these federal claims was error, we reverse and

remand the district court's dismissal of the state securities claims without reaching plaintiffs, contentions regarding the status of their ESOP interests under Oklahoma securities law.

The plaintiffs also assert that the district court abused its discretion in prohibiting them from introducing evidence at trial concerning the profit-sharing component of the Wage Reduction Program. As plaintiffs implicitly admit in their brief, their request to admit evidence on this point amounted to a request for leave to amend their complaint. See Brief of Petitioner at 43-45. Although leave to amend "shall be freely given when justice so requires," Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a), whether leave should be granted is left to the trial court's discretion. Las Vegas Ice & Cold Storage Co., 893 F.2d at 1185. In this case, plaintiffs had twice been granted leave to amend their complaint before this last request. The issues to be resolved at trial had been set for more than a year and trial was

scheduled to begin in three months. Given these facts, we will not say that the district court abused its discretion in denying plaintiffs leave to amend. See id. (untimeliness alone may be a sufficient basis for denial of leave to amend).

Plaintiffs' final claim on appeal is that the district court abused its discretion when it excluded certain of plaintiffs' exhibits, namely a series of payroll slips, from trial on the ground that they had not been designated as trial exhibits as required by a pretrial order. In light of the clear wording of the pretrial order, we find no abuse of discretion in this ruling.[25]

The Pepsico defendants also cross-appeal the district court's denial of their post-trial motion for costs and fees pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1927 and Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. These defendants

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[25] Of course, neither the parties nor the district court is precluded for revisiting these pleading and evidentiary issues on remand of this matter.

allege that they are entitled to such costs and fees due to the plaintiffs, persistence in asserting that their wage reductions were paid into or otherwise contributed to the CL ESOP and that they made a voluntary investment decision. Given our determination on appeal that both of these statements were correct as a matter of law, we find no abuse of discretion in the district court's refusal to award sanctions.

The judgment of the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma is therefore AFFIRMED with respect to its determination of the pleading, evidentiary and sanction issues discussed above. The district court's dismissal of plaintiff's federal and state securities claims is REVERSED, however, and this matter is REMANDED for additional proceedings consistent with this opinion.

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

WILLIAM T. USELTON, et al. Plaintiffs,	)	
vs.	)	Case No. CIV-84-2807-P
COMMERCIAL LOVELACE MOTOR FREIGHT, INC. et al. Defendants.	)	ORDER

I.

INTRODUCTION

This case presents the issue of whether an employee stock option plan ("ESOP"), which was presented to the employees of Lee Way Motor Freight in an effort to save the company and sustain the jobs of its employees, constitutes a "security" within the meaning of federal securities law. The Court concludes that the circumstances of this case create no basis for a violation

of the federal securities laws, and as a result, Plaintiffs' case must be dismissed.

The trial of this case was governed by two orders, one entered by Judge Wayne E. Alley on August 1, 1986, and the other entered by the undersigned on August 5, 1987.[26] The former order identified the issues to be tried in the case, while the latter order identified the schedule under which the parties were to prepare these issues for trial.

By agreement of the parties, this case proceeded to trial before the Court on December 2-4, 1987. Pursuant to the pretrial orders, the legal issued before the Court was whether participation in the ESOP constituted a security within the meaning of Section 2(1) of the Securities Act of 1933 or Section 3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The Court has laboriously reviewed the voluminous affidavits,

[26]The case was transferred to the undersigned on June 22, 1987.

transcripts, exhibits and testimony of this case, as well as the exhaustive briefs filed by all parties. Although the case was aggressively and professionally pursued by all counsel, the evidence at trial overwhelmingly established that the employees of Lee Way Motor Freight did not purchase a security by participating in the Commercial Lovelace Motor Freight ESOP ("CL ESOP").

Pursuant to the pretrial orders in this case, the plaintiff employees undertook a heavy burden. Specifically, plaintiffs were required to prove the following:

1) that the employees contributed to the CL ESOP;

2) that the employees' participation in the CL ESOP was voluntary;

3) that participation in the CL ESOP fell within the definition of a security.

After a careful review of the evidence, the Court finds Plaintiffs' case to be defective on all three scores. In support of this conclusion, the Court enters the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.[27]

II.

FINDINGS OF FACT

A. STIPULATED FACTS

Pursuant to this Court's Order of August 5, 1987, the parties entered into a comprehensive stipulation of uncontested facts ("stipulation"), which was filed with the Court on August 17, 1987. The Court

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[27]Much of the evidence in the case was based upon depositions, undisputed contentions, and stipulated facts, thus rendering unnecessary detailed findings on the issue of credibility within the meaning of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 52(a). Moreover, the Court is aware of the standards governing the review of this case, namely that "where there are two permissible views of the evidence, the fact finder's choice between them cannot be clearly erroneous." See Sawyer v. Swift and Company, _____ F.2d _____ (No. 85-2801) (10th Cir. Jan. 7, 1988). In this case, however, while some credibility determinations were necessary, the evidence critical to the legal issues before the Court was virtually one-sided.

hereby adopts and incorporates this stipulation in its entirety as part of the Court's Findings of Fact. For purposes of clarity, many of the stipulated facts are reiterated in the findings which follow. A copy of this stipulation is attached to this Order.

B. UNDISPUTED FINDINGS OF FACT - BACKGROUND

On December 16, 1987, following the trial of this matter the parties filed revised findings of fact, conforming their previously filed proposed findings to the evidence presented at trial. On December 24, 1987, the parties filed objections to the revised findings. As a result of this process a number of the proposed findings were undisputed. Although overlapping in many respects with the stipulated facts, the Court hereby includes the following undisputed findings as part of its findings of fact.[28]

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[28]The undisputed proposed findings of fact filed by Plaintiff on December 16, 1987 are designated as PPFI #__. The undisputed proposed findings of fact filed by

1. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 42(b), this matter was segmented for trial on the limited issue of whether participation in an employee stock ownership plan implemented by the Defendant Commercial Lovelace Motor Freight and extended to employees of Lee Way Motor Freight constituted a security within the meaning of Section 2(1) of the Securities Act of 1933, 15 U.S.C. §77b(1), or Section 3(a)(10) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 15 U.S.C. §78c(a)(10). [PEPF #1].

2. The Plaintiffs are former employees of Lee Way Motor Freight, Inc. ("Lee Way"). [PEPF 32].

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defendants Pepsico, Inc., Lawrence Dickie, James English, Judy Davis, Richard Campbell and Sharon Shroeder are designated as PEPF #__. The undisputed proposed findings of fact filed by defendants M.T. Alcox, W.D. Persavich, C.C. McCracken, V.L. Ingrum, H.L. Hill and G.W. McIntyre are designated as LAPF #__.

3. Commercial Lovelace Motor Freight, Inc. ("CL") was a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Columbus, Ohio. [PPF #3].

4. Lee Way Motor Freight, Inc. ("Lee Way") was a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, who at all relevant times employed the Plaintiffs in the present case. [PPF #4].

5. Defendants James English, Lawrence F. Dickie, Judy Norman-Davis, Richard Campbell, and Sharon Schroder are alleged to have been members of the Board of Directors of Pepsico at all relevant times, which they deny. This Court need not resolve this factual dispute. [PEPF #3].

6. The Defendants M.T. Alcox, W.D. Persavich, C.C. McCracken, V.L. Ingrum, H.L. Hill, and G.W. McIntyre are alleged to have been individual officers of CL and/or Lee Way. The Defendants V.L.

Ingrum and H.L. Hill, although named in the original Complaint, were not named as defendants in the Plaintiffs' Second Amended Complaint. [PEPF #8].

7. Both Lee Way and CL were, at all relevant times, common carriers engaged in the interstate and intrastate transportation of commodities. As common carriers, both were subject to certain regulations of the Interstate Commerce Commission. [PPF #5].

8. Prior to 1976, Lee Way was a publicly owned trucking company. However, in 1976, it was acquired by Defendant Pepsico and remained a wholly-owned subsidiary corporation until the ownership of Lee Way passed to Defendant CL. [PPF #6].

9. In early 1984, Defendant Pepsico and CL entered into negotiations for Defendant CL to buy all of the stock in Lee Way from Defendant Pepsico. The parties arrived at an accord and signed a

Stock Purchase Agreement dated May 22, 1984. [PPF #7].

10. However, the sale of Lee Way had to be approved by the Interstate Commerce Commission. While approval by the ICC was pending, the Stock Purchase Agreement required Defendant Pepsico to deposit the shares of Lee Way in escrow. [PPF #8].

11. The necessary approval for the sale of Lee Way was obtained from the ICC on August 6, 1984 and title to Lee Way was delivered from escrow to CL. [PPF #10].

12. On February 27, 1985, Lee Way was merged into CL. The resulting entity, Lee Way Holding Company, Inc. ("LWHC"), filed for bankruptcy relief under Title 11 of the United States Code on March 7, 1985. These proceedings have been stayed as to CL and Lee Way. [PEPF #7].

To the extent that other undisputed facts appear in other sections of these findings, they will be designated in accordance with the format set forth in footnote 3 of this opinion and labeled "undisputed".

C. THE COMPENSATION/WAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM

13. In June 1984, CL began an effort to solicit participation of Lee Way employees in a program which was implemented by CL in 1983. [PEPF #12 (undisputed in part); stipulation at ¶ 9, 17, 18].

14. The terms of the compensation program implemented at Lee Way were identical to the terms of the compensation program implemented by CL in 1983. Non-union salaried employees were required to participate in the compensation program as a condition of their employment, but union employees had to execute consent forms in order to participate. [PEPF #13 (undisputed); Stipulation at ¶ 9, 18].

15. There were three parts to the compensation program. The first part was a reduction in the wages of participating employees by 17.355%. (Stipulation at par. 9).

16. The second part of the compensation program was the adoption of a cash profit sharing bonus plan whereby participating employees automatically became entitled to receive 20% of any consolidated pre-tax profits earned by CL for a period of time. [PEPF #15 (undisputed); Stipulation at par. 10].

17. The third part of the compensation program was the establishment of an employee stock ownership plan in CL common stock (the "CL ESOP"). Participants in the compensation program became eligible to participate in the CL ESOP. (Stipulation at par. 11).

D. THE ESOP

18. The Internal Revenue Service determined that the CL ESOP was a qualified employee stock ownership plan under Section 401(a) and 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code. (PEPF #17 (undisputed factually); Court Ex. 24; Affidavit of William C. Buckham, par. 6; Exhibit F to Court Ex. 24].

19. The CL ESOP is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act ("ERISA"). [PEPF #18 (undisputed); Stipulation at par. 15].

20. To fund the CL ESOP, CL, in 1983, issued 4,001.000 shares of its common stock, representing 50.01% of its common stock to Central National Bank of Cleveland, Ohio as Trustee. Except for the nominal sum of $100 deposited by CL in the CL ESOP Trust in connection with its establishment, the sole consideration for the CL shares was $750,000, evidenced by five promissory notes (the "Trust Notes") from the Trustee, each in the amount of $150,000,

payable to the order to CL. The five Trust Notes were to mature serially on the last day of February during the years 1984 through 1988. Initially, CL held all of the CL shares in pledge as security for the Trust Notes. [PEPF #20 (undisputed); Stipulation at par. 12; Court Ex. 19].

21. The provisions of the CL ESOP contemplated, and the Loan and Pledge Agreement between the Trustee and CL expressly provided, that annually CL would either forgive the Trust Note then maturing or make a cash contribution to the CL ESOP in the face amount of the Trust Note and that the Trustee would then pay off the Trust Note by redelivering the funds to CL. The CL ESOP provided that once a Trust Note was paid in either manner, 800,000 shares of CL stock would be released form the pledge and allocated to the account of CL ESOP participants in accordance with the formula provided by the CL ESOP. [PEPF #21 (undisputed in part);

Stipulation at par. 13; Court Ex. 19, Affidavit of James McGuire, par. 4; Plaintiff Ex. 9, pp. 6-7].

22. Pursuant to the terms of the CL ESOP, allocations of CL stock to a participant's account was based upon the ratio that the compensation of all participants bore to the total compensation of all participants for a given year. [ALPF #22 (undisputed)].

23. Such allocations were made to accounts maintained by the CL ESOP Trustee. [PEPF #22 (undisputed in part)]. Those accounts never contained any funds. Rather, they contained only allocated stock. (Testimony of Gerard McIntyre, 12-3-87 Transcript, pp. 104, 117).

24. In February, 1984, CL contributed a check in the amount of $149,900 to the Trustee. Consequently, 800,000 shares of CL were released and allocated to the participants' account [PEPF #24 (undisputed in part); Stipulation at par. 13; Court Ex.

19, Affidavit of James Mcguire), par. 4; Court Ex. 24A, Deposition of William C. Buckham].

25. In 1985, CL cancelled the Trust Note owed to it by the CL ESOP Trustee. Accordingly, 800,000 shares of CL stock were released from allocation to participants' accounts, including the accounts of Lee Way employees who had become participants in the compensation program. [PEPF #25 (undisputed); Stipulation at par. 13; Court Ex. 19, Affidavit of James McGuire, par. 4].

26. Section 4(e) of the CL ESOP provides that "no participant shall be required or permitted to make contributions to the trust." [ALPF #27 (undisputed); CL Exhibit A].

27. No employee contributions were made to the CL ESOP. [Testimony and affidavit of Sharon Schroder and J. McGuire]. Although the employees' pay checks were reduced as a result of the compensation program, no monies resulting from these

reductions were ever transferred to the CL ESOP. Moreover, following the purchase of Lee Way by CL, no additional contributions were made to the trust by CL or Lee Way. [Testimony of J. McGuire, S. Schroder, and Stipulation at par. 14].

28. No CL shares have ever been purchased on the open market by the Trustee, nor have any CL shares been acquired by the Trust, except the shares issued by CL to the Trustee at the inception of the CL ESOP [PEPF #32 (undisputed); Stipulation at par. 16].

E. THE PRESENTATION/IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM

32. Beginning in June 1984, representatives of CL, including Gerard McIntyre, then president and chief executive officer of CL, William C. Buckham, then Vice President - Administration, secretary and general counsel of CL, presented the compensation program to employees of Lee Way.

[PEPF #33 (undisputed); Stipulation at par. 17, 18; Court Exhibit #20; McIntyre Aff. par. 6; Court Exhibit #24; Buckham Aff. par. 12].

33. The Court was impressed with the care taken by CL management to insure consistent representations were made to the Lee Way employees concerning the program. Instructions on the content of the representations were given prior to any presentation. A letter dated June 5, 1984 with attachments explaining the program was prepared and disseminated, and steps were taken to insure that the presentations conformed to the instructions and the printed materials. [Testimony and affidavit of Gerard McIntyre, testimony of Linda Farrell; affidavits of Vernon Ingrum and William Buckham]. The gist of CL's message to the Lee Way employees was (1) that Lee Way had suffered major operating losses and that Lee Way needed to decrease expenses in order to continue operating; (2) that the employees needed to agree to a reduction in

their wages in order to save the company and their jobs; (3) that the reduction in wages would help reduce Lee Way's expenses; and (4) without overwhelming employee participation in the program the company would probably fail. [See e.g., Testimony of G. McIntyre, Linda Farrell, J. Edgemon; Zebdee Hatchett, Franklin Parker].

34. The Court believes that with minor variations, the CL representatives presented the program consistent with the instructions of McIntyre. [Affidavits of G. McIntyre and William Buckham, testimony of Larry Foreman, Linda Farrell]. Indeed, there was convincing proof that the contents of the June 5, 1984 letter were read verbatim at the presentations. Id. The credibility of the CL employees who testified to contrary representations was either impaired on cross examination or by the contradicting testimony of their fellow employees. [Compare e.g., testimony of plaintiffs' witnesses William Priest, Kenneth Miles and Bennie

Pritner with testimony of plaintiffs' witnesses Linda Farrell and Franklin D. Parker]. Moreover, the printed materials accompanying the presentation strongly corroborate defendant's position and severely undercut plaintiffs' contentions.

35. Although the subject of disputed testimony, the Plaintiffs have not satisfied the Court (by a preponderance of the evidence standard) that CL representatives told the employees that the money saved as a result of the wage reduction program would be used to buy stock. Indeed, the testimony of virtually all of Plaintiffs' witnesses was to the effect that the employees were in fact told that the reduction was for the purpose of reducing the expenses of Lee Way (and thus by implication not for the purpose of taking the saved wage reduction monies and using them to purchase stock). [See e.g. Testimony of J. Edgemon, Linda Farrell, Larry Foreman, Zebdee Hatchett, Franklin Parker]. Moreover, virtually all of the Plaintiff

witnesses recognized that the proceeds obtained as a result of the wage reduction were not used on their behalf to purchase stock, inasmuch as none of the plaintiff witnesses treated the 17.355% reduction as income on their tax returns.

36. FICA deductions from the employees' paychecks were computed on the participating employees' wages after the compensation program reduction of 17.355%. Such withholding would have been improper if wage reduction proceeds had been contributed to the CL ESOP. [PEPF #56 (undisputed); Testimony and affidavits of Englebach, Rouse].

37. Lee Way employees who participated in the CL compensation program had their wages reduced by 17.355%. [PEPF #49 (undisputed in part); Testimony of Sharon Schroder]. the 17.355% wage reduction was implemented consistent with the representations of CL employees in that it simply

reduced Lee Way's obligation for wages, thereby reducing Lee Way's expenses. The amounts saved as a result of the reduction were not placed in any identifiable fund or paid into the ESOP. [Testimony of S. Schroder, T. Tuck].

38. As to the non-union Lee Way employees who participated in the program, such participation was clearly not voluntary. In fact, participation was a condition of continued employment. [See e.g. Testimony of G. Bender; F. Parker, PEPF #50 (undisputed)].

39. Although the subject of dispute at trial, the far greater weight of testimony established that the union employees who participated in the program did not view their participation as voluntary. Indeed, most viewed their options as "no choice at all", but rather the only possible avenue of saving their jobs. To the extent contrary testimony was presented, the credibility of the witnesses in question was either

impaired on cross examination [see e.g. Testimony of Bennie L. Pritner] or was contradicted by the testimony of fellow employees. [See e.g. Testimony of J. Edgemon, K. Miles, T. Tuck, J. Goosetree, L. Foreman].

III.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

While the parties have supplied the Court with volumes of briefs on the legal question before the Court, the legal aspects of this case are quite simple in light of the pretrial orders in this case and the evidence presented at trial.

In order for participation in the CL ESOP to constitute a security under the federal securities laws, such participation must (1) be voluntary (2) be contributory and (3) otherwise fit within the definition of a security as set forth in SEC v. W.J. Howey, 328 U.S. 293, 301 (1946). [Order of Judge Wayne E. Alley dated August 1, 1986].

As a matter of law, for the reasons set forth in the findings of fact above, the CL ESOP was neither contributory nor voluntary. No employee contributions were permitted to be made to the plan, and in fact none were made. Moreover, the testimony at trial established that the decision to participate in the plan was overwhelmingly non-voluntary. Finally, the plaintiffs' participation in the plan had virtually no characteristics of an investment decision actionable under federal securities law. International Brotherhood of Teamsters v. Daniel, 439 U.S. 551, 559-60 (1979).[29] In short, the participation of Lee Way employees in the CL ESOP did not constitute a security within the meaning of federal securities law. See Cunha v. Ward Foods, Inc., 545 F.Supp. 94 (D. Hawaii 1982).

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[29]It should also be noted that neither of the statues relied upon by plaintiffs [Section 2(1)] of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 3(a)(10) of the Securities Act of 1934] refer to ESOP's in their definition of security.

While the plaintiffs correctly argue that the "economic realities" of a transaction may support the finding of a security, Woodward v. Terracor, 574 F.2d 1023, 1024 (10th Cir. 1978), here the economical realities, as reflected by the record evidence, have unquestionably established fundamental flaws in plaintiffs' "security" theory.

Accordingly, judgment is hereby entered on behalf of defendants. There being no other basis for federal jurisdiction of this case, plaintiffs' claims were dismissed in their entirety. The Court will entertain a motion from defendants for reasonable costs and fees, if said motion with supporting documentation is filed within twenty-one days of this Order.

Entered this ___ day of_____,

1991.

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THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

WILLIAM T. USELTON, ET AL.,	)	
Plaintiffs,	)	
-vs-	)	No. CIV-84-2807-P
COMMERCIAL LOVELACE MOTOR FREIGHT, INC. ET AL.	)	
Defendants	)	

STIPULATED FACTS

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COMMERCIAL LOVELACE MOTOR FREIGHT, INC., ET AL.	)	
Defendants	)	

STIPULATED FACTS

1. The Second Amended Complaint lists in its caption more than 460 plaintiffs, who are former Union employees of Lee Way Motor Freight, Inc.

2. At the time this action was filed, the defendant, PepsiCo, Inc., was a Delaware Corporation, with its principal place of business in Purchase, New York.

3. The defendant, Commercial Lovelace Motor Freight, Inc., a/k/a CLL Motor Freight,

(hereinafter referred to as "CL"), was a Delaware Corporation, with its principal place of business in Columbus, Ohio.

4. Lee Way Motor Freight, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "Lee Way"), was a Delaware Corporation, with its principal place of business in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

5. Both Lee Way and CL were, at all relevant times, common carriers engaged in the interstate and intrastate transportation of commodities. As common carriers, both were subject to regulation by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

6. Prior to 1976, Lee Way was a privately owned trucking company. It was acquired by PepsiCo in 1976 and remained a wholly owned subsidiary until 1984 when it was sold by PepsiCo to CL, pursuant to the terms of a Stock Purchase Agreement dated May 22, 1984, which closed in escrow on June 6, 1984.

7. The sale of Lee Way required the approval of the Interstate Commerce Commission, which was obtained on August 6, 1984.

8. As a result of, among other things, deregulation following the passage of the Motor Carrier Act of 1980, a series of measures designed to reduce operating losses substantially were undertaken at CL. One of these measures was a cost reduction program, consisting of three parts.

9. The first part of the cost reduction program implemented by CL in 1983 prior to its acquiring Lee Way was a wage reduction program reducing employees' wages in an amount of 17.355%. Participation in the salary reduction program by union employees was by consent. This program was compulsory as to non-union salaried employees; however, pursuant to the Union Collective Bargaining Agreement, the reduction program could not be compulsory for union employees.

10. The second part of the 1983 CL program was the adoption of a cash profit sharing bonus plan whereby employees participating in the wage and salary reduction program automatically became entitled to receive 20% of any consolidated pre-tax profits earned by CL for a period of time.

11. The third part of the 1983 CL program was the establishment of an Employee Stock Ownership Plan ["ESOP"]. All participants in the CL wage and salary reduction program automatically became participants in the ESOP.

12. To fund the ESOP, CL issued common shares representing 50.01% of its stock, or 4,001,000 shares, to Central National Bank of Cleveland, Ohio, as Trustee. Except for the nominal sum of $100.00 deposited by CL in the ESOP Trust in connection with its establishment, the sole consideration for the CL shares consisted of $750,000.00, evidenced by five Trust Notes payable to CL in the amount of

$150,000.00 each. The five Trust Notes were to mature serially on the last day of February during the years 1984 through 1988. Initially CL held all of the CL shares in pledge as security for the Trust Notes.

13. The provisions of the CL ESOP stated that annually CL would forgive the serial note then maturing or the CL would contribute cash to the Trustee to be used to pay the maturing trust note. The ESOP agreement provided that once a note was paid in either manner, 800,000 shares of CL stock would be released from the pledge and allocated to the accounts of ESOP participants in accordance with the formula provided by the Plan. During the two years of the operation of the Plan, this in fact occurred. In 1984 CL contributed the cash to the Trustee to pay off the note. CL contributed $149,900 used to pay off the note. In 1984 CL merely cancelled the 1985 note. 1,600,000 shares were released from the pledge and allocated to ESOP participants' accounts, including the accounts of

those Lee Way employees who had become participants in the Plan.

14. The written ESOP provides that no employee would be required or permitted to make any contributions to the ESOP Trust. The parties are in dispute as to whether the Plan was followed in this respect. The parties are in agreement that aside from the initial deposit of $100., the sole contributions to the ESOP Trust were made as set forth in the Affidavit of the ESOP Trustee, James L. McGuire, dated October 25, 1985.

15. The CL ESOP is subject to the provisions of ERISA, pursuant to which CL has prepared and distributed annually to participants copies of a Summary Plan Description relating to the CL ESOP.

16. No CL shares have ever been purchased on the open market by the Trustee, nor have any CL shares been acquired by the Trust, except the

shares issued by CL to the Trustee at the inception of the ESOP.

17. In connection with the purchase of Lee Way, it was determined that the wage reduction already in effect with CL would be extended to lee Way employees. Efforts to sign up Lee Way employees began in June, 1984, while Lee Way was being operated by CL pursuant to the Management Agreement dated May 22, 1984, and while the stock of Lee Way was in escrow pending final I.C.C. approval of the transaction.

18. The terms of participation in the CL ESOP as part of the compensation program at Lee Way, were identical to the terms of the compensation programs at CL. The program was mandatory as to non-union salaried employees but consensual as to union employees. CL management held meetings with Lee

Way's union employees for the purpose of explaining the entire cost reduction program.

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Plaintiffs,	)	
-against-	)	No. CIV-84-2807-P
COMMERCIAL LOVELACE MOTOR FREIGHT, INC., ET AL.	)	
Defendants	)	

STATE OF OHIO)
: ss.:
COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA)

James McGuire, being duly sworn, says:

1. I am presently Vice President at Central National Bank of Cleveland, Ohio ("Central Bank") and have served in this capacity since October, 1981. From October, 1983 to the present I have served as manager of the Corporate Trust Division of Central Bank's Trust Department. My responsibilities have included the supervision of the trust and agency services which

Central Bank performed as Trustee under the employee stock ownership plan ("ESOP") created by Commercial Lovelace Motor Freight, Inc. ("CL") for its employees in March 1983. I make this affidavit to inform the Court of certain facts relating to the CL ESOP.

2. Central Bank is a national bank with its principal place of business in Cleveland, Ohio. From March 1, 1983 to the present, Central Bank has performed routine trust and agency services as Trustee of the CL ESOP, subject to the direction of representatives of CL, pursuant to the terms of a Trust Agreement with CL dated March 1, 1983 and an Agency Agreement with CL, dated December 13, 1983, copies of which are attached as Exhibits A and B, respectively. These Agreements provide, among other things, that the Trustee is to hold, invest and reinvest the assets of the ESOP, as directed by the ESOP Committee, which at all times has consisted of officials of CL.

3. As ESOP Trustee, Central Bank received from CL in 1983 (prior to CL's purchase of Lee Way Motor Freight, Inc. ("Lee Way")) stock certificates for 4,001,000 shares of CL common stock, which constituted 50.01% of CL's outstanding shares. Except for the nominal sum of $100 deposited in the ESOP Trust in connection with its establishment, the sole consideration for such shares consisted of $750,000 evidenced by five Trust notes of $150,000 each, serially maturing on the last day of February in the years 1984 through 1988.

4. Initially all CL shares were pledged as security for the Trust notes. The provisions of the ESOP contemplate that annually CL will forgive the serial note then maturing and that thereupon 800,000 shares of CL stock will be released from pledge and allocated to employees in accordance with the formula provided by the Plan, or that CL would make a cash contribution to the ESOP in the face amount of the note and Central Bank would then pay off the note by

redelivering the funds to CL, thereby releasing the 800,000 shares of CL stock from the pledge. On March 20, 1984, CL made a cash contribution to the ESOP in the amount of $149,900. On the same date, Central Bank delivered $150,000 to CL in payment of the 1984 note. In 1985, CL notified Central Bank that the 1985 note was forgiven, thereby releasing an additional 800,000 shares of CL stock for allocation among the employees in accordance with the formula provided by the Plan. To date, 1,600,000 shares have been released from pledge and allocated under the terms of the Plan to employees, including those Lee Way employees participating in the Plan.

5. Pursuant to this arrangement, the only Trust asset (apart from the initial nominal deposit of $100) which Central Bank has held as Trustee has consisted of CL shares.

6. No payroll deductions or other cash payments (other than the cash contribution described in

paragraph 4) have ever been transferred to the ESOP Trust.

7. No employee contributions have been made to the ESOP Trust, nor are any such contributions permitted under the terms of Section 4 of the CL Employee Stock Ownership Plan, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit C. The CL Plan has been entirely funded by the employer, as set forth in paragraph 3 above.

8. Under the Agency Agreement, Central Bank, on the basis of information provided by CL, is responsible for making the purely arithmetic computation annually of the number of CL shares to be allocated to each participant's account under the formula provided by the Plan. It also prepares reports for the participants showing the allocations that have been made to them. CL distributes these reports to the participants, as Central Bank does not have their addresses.

9. There is no direct equivalency between the value of the CL shares allocated to a given participant's ESOP account and any salary reduction or deduction to which that participant may have agreed.

10. No CL shares have ever been purchased in the open market by Trust, nor have any CL shares been acquired by the Trust except for those shares transferred by CL at the inception of the ESOP in March 1983 as described in paragraph 3 above.

11. When CL acquired Lee Way in 1984, the CL ESOP had been in effect for more than a year. Other than two amendments made to the Plan in June 1984 to authorize the inclusion of the Lee Way employees (as reflected in Exhibit C), no changes were made in the Plan and no additional contributions to the Plan were made or transferred to the Trust by CL or Lee Way following the purchase. Lee Way employees who became participants in the Plan became subject to

the terms and provisions of the Trust Agreement and Agency Agreement between CL and Central Bank.

13. Central Bank as dealt as Trustee of the ESOP only with CL, and has not had any communications with PepsiCo regarding the CL ESOP and has no knowledge of any involvement by PepsiCo in connection with the enrollment of Lee Way Employees in the ESOP.

_____
James McGuire

Sworn to me this
____ day of October, 1985.

_____
Notary Public

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IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
OCTOBER TERM, 1991

COMMERCIAL LOVELACE MOTOR FREIGHT, ET AL.,
Petitioners,

v.

WILLIAM T. USELTON, ET AL.,
Respondents.

PEPSICO, INC. LAWRENCE DICKIE,
JAMES ENGLISH, JUDY NORMAN-DAVIS,
RICHARD CAMPBELL, AND SHARON SCHRODER,
Petitioners,

v.

WILLIAM T. USELTON, ET. AL.,
Respondents.

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT

BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Court of Appeals Decision below conflicts with this Court's Decision in *International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, and Warehousemen and Helper of America v. Daniel*, 439 U.S. 551 (1979), in holding that an employee who has agreed to participate in a voluntary contributory defined contribution plan in the form of a wage reduction program which, among its components, includes a personal and individual wage reduction from the previously negotiated union rate in exchange for an interest in an employee stock ownership plan, has purchased an investment contract and, therefore, a security under 15 U.S.C. §§ 77b(1) and 78c(a)(10)(1988).

2. Whether the Court of Appeals Decision below conflicts with this Court's Decision in *Daniel* in holding that an em-

ployee benefit plan subject to regulation under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, 29 U.S.C. ¶¶ 1001-1461 (1988), also is subject to regulation under Federal Securities Laws.

PARTIES TO THE PROCEEDINGS

Respondents are 485 former employees of Lee Way Motor Freight, Inc. as follows:

ABLE, CARROLL; ABREGO, PROTACIO; ADAM, JAVIER; ADAMS, DOYLE; AEBISCHER, WILLIAM; ALLEN, RICKY D.; ALLISON, HAROLD; ALTIZEN, JAMES; ANDERSON, WILLIAM; ANDERSON, ALONZO; ANDERSON, ROBERT; ANDERSON, BILL J.; AYRES, JAMES; AZLIN, WILLIAM; BABST, ARNOLD; BAILEY, D. E.; BALDWIN, GERALD; BALLARD, JOHNNY; BARCENA, ESEQUIEL; BARNES, RICKKI; BARNETT, A. W.; BARRERA, JESSE; BARRERA, MANUEL R.; BARRETT, LEROY; BARTON, GEORGE; BASS, BILL; BASS, JERRY; BAUTISTA, MARTIN; BAXTER, HENRY; BEERY, WILLIAM; BENDER, JERRY; BENNETT, BOBBY; BENNETT, SHIRLEY; BENSON, BILLY; BIDDLECOME, FLOYD; BILLINGS, K.L.; BISHOP, J. R.; BISHOP, ELDON; BIVINS, R. D.; BLACK, JAMES; BLADES, C. R.; BLANKENSHIP, J. L.; BOMHOFF, NANCY; BOOKER, VALERIE; BOREN,

RICHARD; BOUCHELLE, BRYON; BOWLING, BOBBY; BOYD, I. B.; BRANNONG, J.; BRICKER, WILLIAM; BRIDENSTINE, RONALD; BRIECHISEN, DONALD; BROCK, KEITH; BROCK, PATSY; BROUSSARD, O.L.; BRYANT, VAUGHN; BURKETT, ANNA; BURKHALTER, J.D.; BURNS, CLARENCE; BURRELL, B. J.; BURTON, DUDLEY; BUSSING, FERRELL; BUTLER, DONALD L.; BYNUM, JACK; CANNON, MAURICE; CARDWELL, NORMAN; CARNEY, DAVID; CARPENTER; MELVIN; CARROLL, NELDA; CARROLL, EVERT; CARSON, TROY; CASEY, JERRY; CAUDILL, RONALD; CHANEY, ALVA; CHAPIN, WARREN REX; CHAPMAN, LESLEY; CHRISTENSEN, CARL; CHRISTIANS, GLEN; CHRONISTER, JERRY; COMBS, LEON; CONTRERAS, ROBERT; COPELAND, E. B.; COTA, RUBEN; COULTER, E. H.; COURTNEY, LLOYD; COX, BETTY; CRAWFORD, REBECCA; CREWS, THEAL; CREWS, DENNIS; CUTLER, DON E.; DAGUE, HAROLD; DALLA ROSE, PAULA; DANLEY, WILLIAM; DAVENPORT, JOHN; DAVEY, RAYMOND; DAVIDSON, CARL; DAVIDSON, CARL; DAVIS, DAISY; DAVIS, L. V.; DAVIS, CARL F.; DAVIS, CARL; DECKER, BOBBY; DEDMON, EMORY; DEERING, BOBBY; DENNY, DANIEL; DENTON, EARL; DODD, WILLIAM; DOERN, CARMEL; DOWLING, J. C.; DUNCAN, LLOYD; EDGEMON, JERRY L.; EDWARDS, JACK; EDWARDS, JOHN WILLIAM; ELIAS, ADOLFO; EVANS, B. C.; FERGUSON, ROBERT; FERGUSON, ROBERT M.; FIDLER, E. J.; FITZ, DONALD; FITZGERALD, ALVIN; FORBES, JERRY;

FOREMAN, L. V.; FORTUNE, LLOYD; FREDEIU, HUEY A; FREEMAN, JAMES L.; FRESONKE, LEW; FRIZZELL, T. D.; FROST, CLEOPHUS; GALINDO, ROLANDO; GAMEZ, MANUEL; GARRISON, IONA; GLEN LAYTON; GLOVER, MARLAND; GOAD, GERALD; GOLDEN, JUNIOR LEE; GOLDEN, ARTHUR; GOMEZ, STANLEY; GONZALES, L. W.; GONZALES, TONY; GOODMAN, PAUL; GOYA, LORITA; GRAY, LEROY; GRAY, JOE; GREEN, ALVIN; GREENE, EARL; GRIFFIN, EARL V.; GUNN, W. R. HAHN, JOHNNY; HANCOCK, LEON; HANSHUE, D. K.; HARLSON, D. L.; HARNED, J. W.; HARRIS, SHARON KAY; HARRIS, J. W.; HARWELL, BARBARA; HAWKINS, BILLY O.; HAYS, KENNETH; HEIL, J. H.; HENDERSON, JOEL; HENRY, RITA; HENSON, JOHNNIE; HERNANDEZ, FRANK M.; HERNANDEZ, GILBERT; HESS, HARVEY; HILL, LEROY; HILL, HARRY; HILL, NIB E.; HINES, DAVID; HOFFMAN, MOLLY; HOHENSEE, W. H.; HOLMAN, CARL; HOLQUIN, MANUEL; HOOPER, GARLAND; HORN, JOHN D.; HORN, RAYMOND; HOSKINSON, HENRY; HOUSTON, LEE ROY; HOWARD, TOMMY; HOWELLS, RICHARD; HUCKABY, CHARLES; HUNT, JOHNY S.; HUPP, D. W.; JACK, TOMMIE; JACKSON, KENNETH; JACKSON, EARL; JARAMILLO, LISARDO; JARANILLE, THOMAS; JARMILLO, THOMAS; JEFFCOAT, G.D.; JENKINS, BILLY; JENNINGS, JIMMIE; JOHNSON, JERRY; JOHNSON, BOBBY; JOHNSON, JAMES T.; JOHNSON, JOHNNY L.; JOHNSTON, RANDALL; JONES, T. L.; JONES, JACKIE; JONES, BILLY R.; JONES,

CHARLIE M. JR.; JORDAN, VERNON; JOSEPH, WILLIE; JOSLIN, EARL; JOSLIN, EARL; JUAREZ, VICTOR; JUDY ROGERS KEESEE, WILLIS; KEITH, JIM BOB; KEITH, HERBERT; KEITH, BRITT INGRID; KENDRIX, DONALD; KENDRIX, DONALD; KENNEDY, JERRY; KENNICUTT, BOB; KIMBLE, HOMER; KING, ALYCE; KING, JIMMY; KING, EDWARD; KIRKLAND, TOMMY; KLAUS, HERMAN; KNAPP, JOE; KNAPP, JOHN L.; LABAW, (Labain), JOHN; LAMB, SHIRLEY; LANCASTER, NORVELL; LARSON, DONALD; LASENBERRY, LAWRENCE LAVELLE, EDWARD; LAVENDER, CARL; LAVIN, GLEN SR.; LEE, JAMES E.; LENT, JOHN D.; LEPLEY, DON; LEWIS, WALTER; LEWKASKI, LINDA; LOMAN, D. L.; LONG, JAMES; LONG, MARCIA; LOONEY, DANIEL; LOUDERMILK, WILLIE; LUTON, GERALD; MANUEL JOE; MARKS, JR. FULTON; MARQUEZ, ARTURO; MARSHALL, BEN; MARTIN, JO ANN; MARTINEZ, ALFRED; MASON, JAMES; MASTERS, JIMMY; MAULDIN, HOLLIS; MAXWELL, JO F.; MC DONALD, T. J.; MC CORMICK, LEEHA; MC DANIEL, CLEO; MCCAMPBELL, JAMES; MCCANLIS, PATRICIA; MCCLELLAND, MARION; MCINTYRE, WILLIAM; MCKYE, FRANCIS; MEEK, MARVIN; MENDOZA, HECTOR; MERKLE, DANIEL; MESSELL, DOUG; MILES, KENNETH; MITCHELL, HAROLD; MITCHELL, HOWARD; MONROE, RUEL; MOORE, BETTY; MOORE, STANLEY; MORGAN, DEATRON; MOWERY, ELENOR; MOYLAND, STEVEN; MOYSHEN, JOHN; MULENBRUCH, WAYNE; MUNOZ, OSCAR; MURDOCK, RONALD; MURDOCK, RONALD;

NEAL, JAMES; NEELY, FRANKLIN; NELSON, THURMAN; NEVELS, W. H.; NIBLOCK, DALLAS; NIXON, JOE; NIXON, JOE; NOHNAGER, JERRY; NORTON, CHARLES; NYDICK, KAREN; OLIVER, JIM; OLSON, C.G.; OYOS, ALBERT; PARTIN, WILLIAM; PASSON, GARY; PEARSON, REBECCA; PEMBERTON, CHARLES; PEREZ, SALVADOR; PEREZ, J. M.; PERKINS, DORA; PETERSON, ROGER; PFUNDSTEIN, MICHAEL; PHELPS, LEROY; PHILLIP HORN; PHILLIPS, F. C.; PICKENS, FARRELL; POINDEXTER, TERRY; PORTER, (Poerwe E. Jmwa) JAMES; PORTER, ROBERT G.; POWELL, OSCAR G.; PRICE, BOBBY; PRUDHOME, ALAN; QUALLINE, D.Y.RACKLEY, J. W.; RAMONDO, BERRY; REAZA, NARCIZO; REDDELL, WILBURN; REEVES, HORACE; REEVES, BILL; REYNOLDS, CLINTON; REYNOLDS, JOHN; RICHARDSON, ARNETT; RIDER, EUGENE; RIDGLEY, C. D.; ROBBINS, TOMMIE; ROBINSON, JOEL; ROBLES, GILBERT; RODRIGUEZ, GUADALUPE; RODRIQUEZ, RAMON; RODRIQUEZ, JIMMIE; RODRIQUEZ, JIMMIE; ROGERS, DWIGHT; ROGERS, JUDY; ROGNON, BOB; ROGNON, ROBERT; ROHLING, R. H.; ROWE, JAMES; ROWLAND, JACK; RUMINER, KELLEY; RUSHING, JAMES; SAENZ, BENJAMIN; SAENZ, BERNARDO; SAENZ, BEN; SALINAS, WILLIAM; SANCHEZ, RICHARD; SANDELL, WILLIAM; SASSANO, ROY; SCHRODER, JAMES (Jmwa Axheowswe) SCRUGGS, LEO; SENA, MANUEL; SHARBER, BOB; SHEA, HAROLD; SHEEN, CESAR; SHELTON, LAWRENCE; SHOCKLEY, WILLIAM;

SIKORSKY, DANIEL; SILVER, FRED; SKELTON, R. T. SKINNER, RICK; SMITH, BOBBY D.; SMITH, J. DAVID; SMITH, ROGER; SMITH, BRUCE O.; SMITH, W. A.; SMITH, CLARENCE E. SOLIDAY, CARL; SPITZLEY, ANTHONY; STAFFORD, LARRY JOE; STANLEY, JOHN O.; STANSBURY, BOBBY E.; STERRETT, K. E.; STEWARD, RONNIE; STEWART, BILL; STOCKTON, C. E.; STUART, ROBERT E.; SUDDUTH, GERALD SUGGS, LEO; SUMMERLIN, ANDY; SUMMERS, HAROLD; TERRAZAS, JESSE; TERRY, WILLARD; THOMAS, DENNIS; THOMAS, LEALUS; THOMAS, FRANK; THOMPSON, JAMES; THOMPSON, LEO; THRELKELD, THOMAS; TRAUB, WILLIAM TRIGG, DIANNE; TSOODLE, GEORGE; TURNER, ROBERT; TWEEDY, ALTON; UHRMACHER, MAURICE; USELTON, WILLIAM T.; UTLSER, DELBERT; VAP, J.; VAP, EDITH; VERDE, VAL, CEASAR; WAGNER, GERALD; WALCHER, LESLIE; WALKER, HARRY MAX; WALLACE, JOHNNY; WALLING, FRED; WARD, JAMES; WARD, OTIS; WARMOTH, JOHNNY; WARREN, PAUL; WARREN, JERRY A.; WARREN, PAUL M.; WASHINGTON, JOHN; WEAVER, CLAUDIE C.; WEBB, DOUGLAS; WELCH, HOWARD L.; WELLS, WAYNE T.; WESLEY, ROBERT A. WESTON, JAMES; WHEELER, DON; WHITE, LAWRENCE; WHITE, EARL E. WHITTENBERG, HOWARD; WILKERSON, BOB L.; WILLCOCK, E. L.; WILLIAMS, KENNETH; WILLIAMS, RUBEN; WILLIAMS, JIMMIE; WILLIAMSON, HUBERT; WILSON, ROBERT; WILSON, JACK D.; WILSON, CARL LEE; WIMMER, WILLIAM T.;

WING, HOWARD; WINTER, DONALD; WITT, K. D.; WIXOM, WILLIE; WOFFORD, EARL; WOLF, MARY ANN; WOLFE, JACK E.; WOLFE, PETE; WOLFE, RAMON; WOLPOFF, VINCE; WOMACK, C. J.; WOODWARD, JAMES; WORKLEY, CLAUDE; WORKMAN, LENORA; WRIGHT, MARVIN; WRIGHT, THERESA; WRIGHT, PATRICK; YANDELL, DEBORAH; YARBROUGH, JACK; YOCUM, FINIS; YODER, WARREN, YOUNG, WELCOME; YOUNG, JAMES

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STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Respondents are 485 former employees of Lee Way Motor Freight. Inc. ("Lee Way"), a trucking concern, formerly headquartered in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Lee Way was acquired by PepsiCo, Inc. in 1976. In June 1984, PepsiCo agreed to sell Lee Way to Commercial Lovelace Motor Freight, Inc. ("CL"). The sale required the approval of the Interstate Commerce Commission ("ICC"). When the ICC approved the transaction in August, 1984, the sale was finalized. While PepsiCo and CL waited for ICC approval, CL operated Lee Way pursuant to a management agreement.

In 1983, approximately one year before CL acquired Lee Way, CL implemented a wage reduction program at CL in order to reduce CL's costs, partly in response to competitive pressures created by deregulation of the trucking industry. In June, 1984,

after PepsiCo agreed to sell Lee Way to CL, and while waiting for ICC approval, CL's management began soliciting Lee Way employees to participate in the compensation program already in place at CL. The terms offered to Lee Way employees were the same terms implemented by CL in 1983. Non-union salaried employees of Lee Way were required to participate in the compensation program as a condition of their employment. Union employees signed individual consent forms in order to participate.

The CL wage reduction program consisted of three parts: (1) an employee wage reduction of 17.355%; (2) a cash profit-sharing bonus plan entitling employees to 20% of consolidated pre-tax profits earned by CL;and (3) an employee stock ownership plan in CL common stock (the "ESOP").

The following facts regarding the ESOP were stipulated to by the parties and are

contained in the Affidavit of James McGuire, Vice President of Central National Bank of Cleveland, the ESOP's Trustee, ¶ 3-7, App. 118-120.

As ESOP Trustee, Central Bank received from CL in 1983 (prior to CL's purchase of Lee Way Motor Freight, Inc. ("Lee Way") stock certificates for 4,001,000 shares of CL common stock, which constituted 50.01% of CL's outstanding shares. Except for the nominal sum of $100 deposited in the ESOP Trust in connection with its establishment, the sole consideration for such shares consisted of $750,000 evidenced by five Trust notes of $150,000 each, serially maturing on the last day of February in the years 1984 through 1988.

Initially, all CL shares were pledged as security for the Trust notes. The provisions of the ESOP contemplate that annually CL will forgive the serial note

then maturing and that thereupon 800,000 shares of CL stock will be released from pledge and allocated to employees in accordance with the formula provided by the Plan, or that CL would make a cash contribution to the ESOP in the face amount of the note and Central Bank would then pay off the note by redelivering the funds to CL, thereby releasing the 800,000 shares of CL stock from the pledge.

On March 20, 1984, CL made a cash contribution to the ESOP in the amount of $149,900. On the same date, Central Bank delivered $150,000 to CL in payment of the 1984 note. In 1985, CL notified Central Bank that the 1985 note was forgiven, thereby releasing an additional 800,000 shares of CL stock for allocation among the employees in accordance with the formula provided by the Plan. To date, 1,600,000 shares have been released from pledge and

allocated under the terms of the Plan to employees, including those Lee Way employees participating in the Plan.

Pursuant to this arrangement, the only Trust asset (apart from the initial nominal deposit of $100) which Central Bank has held as Trustee has consisted of CL shares.

No payroll deductions or other cash payments (other than the cash contribution described above) have ever been transferred to the ESOP Trust.

No employee contributions have been made to the ESOP Trust, nor are any such contributions permitted under the terms of Section 4 of the CL Employee Stock Ownership Plan. The CL Plan has been entirely funded by the employer, as set forth above.

CL's management presented the wage reduction plan, including the ESOP, to Lee Way employees. They informed Lee Way employees that (1) Lee Way had suffered major

operating losses and needed to decrease expenses to continue operating; (2) the employees needed to agree to wage reductions to save the company; (3) the reductions in wages would help reduce Lee Way's expenses; and (4) without overwhelming employee participation in the program, Lee Way would probably fail.

Respondents participated in the compensation program. After Lee Way failed, however, respondents filed suit alleging that their interests in the ESOP were investment contracts and that the petitioners had violated securities laws in soliciting respondents' participation in the wage reduction program. Respondents seek more than six million dollars they allege as lost wages resulting from their participation in the wage reduction program, but they do not seek to recover benefits from

the ESOP or otherwise to enforce their rights as ESOP participants.

Following discovery and pretrial proceedings, the case was segmented for trial so that the Trial Court could resolve the disputed issue of whether interests in the wage reduction program constituted a security within the meaning of the Securities Acts.

After trial, the Trial Court ruled that the wage reduction program was neither contributory nor voluntary. Therefore, the Trial Court determined that the respondents' interests in the ESOP were not securities within the meaning of the Securities Acts.

On Appeal, the Tenth Circuit made four holdings relevant to the present appeal. First, it determined that the appropriate standard of review was de novo. Individual

Petitioners' Brief, App. 24. In doing so, it said:

> On the mixed question of whether the facts satisfy the proper legal standards, we conduct a de novo review if the question primarily involves the consideration of legal principals. . . .

Id. citing *Love Box Co. v. Commissioner*, 824 F.2d 1213, 1215 (10th Cir.), cert. denied, 488 U.S. 820 (1988). The Tenth Circuit, under de novo standard, rejected the Trial Courts' conclusions that the wage reduction program was involuntary and contributory, finding it to be both voluntary and contributory as those terms are used in connection with employee benefit plans.

Based upon these conclusions, the Tenth Circuit held that the wage reduction plan was an investment contract, and therefore, a security. Finally, it held that the Employees Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA") did not pre-empt

application of the Securities Act to the wage reduction plan.

SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

It is clear from reading petitions for certiorari filed by both Pepsico and the individual petitioners that they have not followed the procedure outlined in Rule 10 of this Court for obtaining such writ. In essence, they are treating the petition as one for appeal as a matter of right rather than one for certiorari. As a result, rather than outlining, in detail, the reasons why this Court should grant certiorari under the criteria set out in Rule 10, the petitioners spend most of their petition re-arguing the merits of the case, attempting to show why the Tenth Circuit decision was wrong.

Even their discussion of the merits adds little. They offer no arguments not

already made nor authorities not already cited. The Tenth Circuit, in its lengthy and excellently reasoned opinion, carefully reviewed and distinguished each case now cited and discussed and rejected each argument now tendered. The Petitioners real reason for filing their petitions is that they simply disagree with the Tenth Circuit's decision, and they want this Court to give them the opportunity to appeal further[1]. Such is not the function of the certiorari process as the Respondents understand it.

This point is illustrated by the fact that the petitioners' issues on which they

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[1]The Respondents submit that the Tenth Circuit's analysis of both the law and facts was correct. As will be seen below, the decision of the Tenth Circuit is consistent with the decisions of this Court and the other courts of appeal. It is also consistent with the SEC interpretative position since 1940 as well as with the legislative history of the original securities acts and its amendments.

seek certiorari and a substantial portion of their briefs are devoted to attacking three critical holdings of the Tenth Circuit: (1) That the wage reduction plan was voluntary; (2) that it was contributory; and (3) that the Lee Way employees were not motivated solely to save their jobs, but had the requisite investment motive, at least in part. The trial court found these three points in the petitioners' favor, and they obviously agree with the trial court over the decision of the Tenth Circuit.

However, what they either do not understand, or chose to ignore, is the standard of review applied by the Tenth Circuit in the present case. The question of whether something is an investment contract, and therefore a security, under the test this Court developed in *SEC v. W.J. Howey Co.*, 328 U.S. 293, 296 (1946), is a

mixed question of law and fact. See e.g., *Roe v. United States*, 286 F.2d 435 (5th 1961). See generally, 12A J. Long, Blue Sky Law § 8.02[1][b] (1991). It requires the application of facts to a legal standard. In such case, the Tenth Circuit stated: "On mixed question of whether the facts satisfy the proper legal standard, we conduct a de novo review if the question primarily involves the consideration of legal principles...." Individual Petitioners' Brief, App. 24, citing *Love Box Co. v. Commissioner*, 842 F.2d 1213, 1215 (10th Cir.), cert. denied, 488 U.S. 820 (1988). As a result, the conclusions of the trial court, at this point, are irrelevant because they have been replaced by the Tenth Circuit in its conduct of a de novo review of the issues. Nowhere, however, in their issues upon which certiorari is sought or in their briefs, do the peti-

tioners challenge, or even discuss, the legal propriety of the Tenth Circuit's application of the de novo standard of review.

Failure to challenge the legal standard of review or provide adequate reasons for review under the criteria outlined in Rule 10 of this Court should, in and of itself, be sufficient reason to deny the writ without further ado. However, since, admittedly, both petitions, at least, paid lip service to Rule 10, the Respondents feel compelled to respond to the Petitioner's claims.

As the Respondent perceives them, the petitioners have made three claims under Rule 10. The first two grounds appear to lie under Rules 10(a) and (c) in that the petitioner's claim that the decision of the Tenth Circuit is in conflict with a controlling decision of this Court in

International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, and Warehousemen and Helper of America v. Daniel, 439 U.S. 551 (1979) and the decisions of Seventh and Ninth Circuits in *Coward v. Colgate-Palmolive Co.*, 686 F.2d 1230 (7th Cir. 1982); *Black v. Payne*, 591 F.2d 83 (9th Cir. 1979). The third claim raised, only by Petitioner Pepsico, appears to lie under that portion of Rule 10(c) indicating that certiorari is appropriate in those cases where a court of appeals "has decided an important question of federal law which has not been, but should be, settled by this Court...."

As to the first two of these claims, there simply is no conflict. The *Daniel* case held that compulsory non-contributory benefit plans were not investment contracts because the employee made no investment. Similarly, the Ninth Circuit in *Black* held that a voluntary non-contributory plan was

not an investment contract because there was no investment. On the other hand, the Tenth Circuit in the present case found the wage reduction plan to be both voluntary and contributory. In doing so, it held that the employees made an investment because they had to make individual decisions whether to join the plan and had to surrender the legal right to receive 17.35 per cent of the wages due them under their union contract.

Similarly, there is no conflict with the *Coward* case because again the instruments involved are different, and this difference mandates a different treatment under the *Howey* test. The *Coward* case involved a voluntary contributory defined benefit plan. The present case involves an Employee Stock Ownership Plan or ESOP which all acknowledge is a defined contribution plan. *Coward* held that the defined benefit

plan did not involve an investment contract because the employee incurred no investment risk, but was entitled to a fixed benefit. The Tenth Circuit, on the other hand, held that in the case of the defined contribution plan the employee bears the investment risk because the amount of his return under the plan is dependent upon the investment experience of the plan over which he has no control.

A similar analysis shows that there is not a true conflict in the last of the petitioners' alleged conflicts. *Daniel* held that investment contract status should not be extended to compulsory non-contributory plans because such plans had not been previously covered by the securities acts and were regulated by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"). The petitioners argue that *Daniels* held that because of the ERISA coverage there

was no need to cover any plans under the securities act.

To the contrary, the Tenth Circuit distinguished *Daniel* on two bases. First, it held that the *Daniel* test had been refined by this Court's subsequent decisions in *Reves v. Ernst & Young*, 494 U.S. 56 (1990), and *Marine Bank v. Weaver*, 455 U.S. 551 (1982), so that the question was now whether the alternative regulatory system provided an adequate substitute for regulation under the securities act. It concluded that ERISA did not for two reasons. First, ERISA does not provide for disclosure prior to the investment decision. Second, ERISA arguably, does not provide these plaintiffs an adequate remedy for the violations alleged. The Tenth Circuit also held that voluntary contributory plans had always been considered securities by both Congress and the SEC, a

fact acknowledged by this Court in *Daniel*. Therefore, this Court's holding in *Daniel* was limited to compulsory non-contributory plans whereas the plan in the present case was a voluntary contributory defined contribution plan. Respondents believe the Tenth Circuit is correct on both points.

The last claim for the granting of certiorari under Rule 10(c)--that this is a major case involving an important issue of federal law which should be decided by this Court--also does not bear up under close inspection. The opinion below is not only lengthy, but also extremely well-reasoned, citing copious authority to support its conclusions. The decision carefully reviews all the cases presently cited by the Petitioners and discusses all the arguments they raise before this Court. Its conclusions are consistent with the precedent of this Court and the other cases dealing

with similar issues. As a result, there is no indication that it will not be followed by other courts. In summary, it correctly and persuasively establishes the law in this area. Under such circumstances, further review by this Court is not necessary in light of the restricted number of cases which this Court can review under Writ of Certiorari.

Finally, of course, the Respondents would urge the Court not to grant certiorari in the present case because the decision of the Tenth Circuit is correct on the merits. The wage reduction plan does constitute an investment contract under the *Howey* test. There was an investment. The employees had to surrender, individually, their legal right to receive additional wages under the union contract. Individual Petitioners' Brief, App. 45. There has never been a dispute that the necessary

common enterprise is supplied by the CL ESOP. *Id.* at 40. The Tenth Circuit, contrary to the trial court, concluded that the employees were motivated, at least in part, to make their investment by an expectation of a profit. *Id.* at 38. This conclusion is controlling as a result of the de novo review standard applied even though it may conflict with the conclusion of the trial court. Finally, the Tenth Circuit held that the profit was to come primarily from the efforts of the CL management and other employees. *Id.* at 41-42.

For the above stated reasons, the Respondents would urge the Court to refuse a Writ of Certiorari in the present case.

ARGUMENT

The petitioners appear to have made three claims under Rule 10 for the granting of Certiorari in the present case. Each of these claims will be examined in detail below.

I. THE DECISION IN *DANIEL*, *BLACK*, AND *COWARD* ARE NOT IN CONFLICT WITH THE TENTH CIRCUITS' DECISION IN THE PRESENT CASE

Turning to the claims under Rules 10(a) and (c), the petitioners first claim that the Tenth Circuit's decision that the wage reduction plan in the present case is an investment contract under the test formulated by the Court in *SEC v. W.J. Howey Co.*, 328 U.S. 293, 296 (1946)[2],

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[2]In *Howey*, the Court said:

> [A]n investment contract for the purposes of the Securities Act means a contract, transaction, or scheme whereby a person invests his money in a common enterprise

conflicts with the holding of this Court in *International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, and Warehousemen and Helper of America v. Daniel*, 439 U.S. 551 (1979) and of Seventh and Ninth Circuits in *Coward v. Colgate-Palmolive Co.*, 686 F.2d 1230 (7th Cir. 1982); *Black v. Payne*, 591 F.2d 83 (9th Cir. 1979). In these cases, the courts held certain benefit plans not to be investment contracts. The Tenth Circuit reviewed all three cases and held that there was no conflict between its decision in the present case and these decisions. Its reasoning was that the types of plans involved in the earlier cases differed materially from that in the case at bar and that the differences required a different conclusion under the *Howey* test. While the

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and is lead to expect profits solely from the efforts of the promoter or a third party.

petitioners claim two points of conflict, the Respondents submit that the Tenth Circuit's analysis is correct and there is no conflict.

A. THE DECISIONS IN *DANIEL* AND *BLACK* THAT THE PLANS INVOLVED WERE NOT INVESTMENT CONTRACTS ARE NOT IN CONFLICT WITH THE TENTH CIRCUIT'S DECISION THAT THE PLAN IN THE PRESENT CASE WAS AN INVESTMENT CONTRACT

There is no conflict between the present case and the earlier decisions in *Daniel* and *Black*. These cases involve different types of benefit plans. The different characteristics of the plans in *Daniel* and *Black*, properly lead the Tenth Circuit to distinguish them from the wage reduction plan in the present case.

It is true that in *Daniel*, this Court held that certain benefit plans were not investment contracts and, therefore not securities covered by the securities acts.

However, the Court was careful to limit its holding to cover only compulsory, non-contributory plans. 439 U.S. at 553, 569-570. The Ninth Circuit in the *Black* case held that a compulsory, contributory plan not to be an investment contract.

The reasoning in both cases was that the first element of the *Howey* test for investment contracts-an investment or money or other consideration--was not met. To the contrary, the Tenth Circuit found in the case at bar that the plan was both voluntary and contributory.[3] It, then,

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[3]The Tenth Circuit felt that the plan was voluntary because each Lee Way union employee had to agree individually to accept the wage reduction plan, and their decision did not affect their continued employment under the existing union contract. Thus, each employee had to make an individual decision to invest. Second, the Tenth Circuit held that the wage reduction constituted a contribution to the plan and was the investment of consideration. This is consistent with the Court's holding in *Daniel*. See 439 U.S. at 560, n.12. See also *Yoder v.*

concluded that since each Lee Way employee had to make an individual decision to participate in the plan and surrender his right to a portion of the wages he was entitled to under the union contract that the first element of *Howey* had been satisfied. Thus, the plans in *Daniel* and *Black* differed materially from that in the case a bar and the difference required a different result under the *Howey* test.

B. THE DECISION OF THE TENTH CIRCUIT IN THE PRESENT CASE DOES NOT CONFLICT WITH THAT OF THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT IN *COWARD V. COLGATE-PALMOLIVE COMPANY*

There is no conflict between decision of the Tenth Circuit in the case below and

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Orthomolecular Nutrition, Inc., 751 F.2d 555, 560-561 (2d Cir. 1985); *Collins v. Rukin*, 342 F. Supp. 1282 (D. Mass. 1972). As will be seen below, the Respondents submit that the Tenth Circuit's holding that the plan was both voluntary and contributory is correct.

the holding in *Coward v. Colgate-Palmolive Co.*, 686 F.2d 1230 (7th Cir. 1982), cert. denied, 460 U.S. 1070 (1983). *Coward* held that certain employee benefit plans were not investment contract under *Howey*. The *Coward* case, however, requires a different analysis than undertaken in the last section. It is well recognized that there are two types of employee benefit plans: (1) defined benefit plans and defined contribution plans.

The SEC defined the two types of benefit plans in Employee Benefit Plans, SEC Securities Act Rel. No. 33-6188, 17 C.F.R. § 231.6281 (Feb. 1, 1980), reprinted in 1 Fed. Sec. L. Rep. (CCH) ¶ 1051. It stated that:

> A defined benefit plan pays fixed or determinable benefits. The benefits ordinarily are described in a formula which specifies the amount payable in monthly or annual installments to participants who retire at a certain age.

[notes omitted], quoted with approval in *Cunha v. Ward Foods, Inc.*, 545 F. Supp. 94, 99, n.5 (D. Haw. 1982), aff'd in part, rev'd in part on other grounds, 804 F.2d 1418 (9th Cir. 1983). It then described a defined contribution plan in this way:

> A defined contribution plan does not pay any fixed or determinable benefits. Instead, benefits will vary, depending on the amount of plan contributions, the investment success of the plan, and allocations made of benefits forfeited by non-vested participants who terminate employment. Thus, the amount of benefits is based, in part, on the earnings generated by the plan.

Id. [Notes omitted.] The SEC then went on to identify Employee Stock Ownership Plans or ESOPs as being one example of a defined contribution plan. *Id.*, n. 30. The petitioners have never disputed this fact.

The significant difference in the plans lies in who must bear the investment risk. Under the defined benefit plan the

employee is entitled to a fixed payment. If the investment experience of the fund does not generate sufficient income to pay this benefit, then the employer must make additional contributions. On the other hand, in the case of the defined contribution plan, the amount of the benefit received is controlled at least in part by the investment success of the fund. Therefore, the employee, not the employer, bears the investment risk. See ESOPs, Just Part of Growth in Employee Ownership, Authors Find, Daily Labor Report (BNA), No. 163, at A-2 (Aug. 22, 1991)(Avail. on LEXIS).

In *Coward*, while the plan was both voluntary and contributory,[4] it was also a defined benefit plan. Because under such plan the employee bore none of the invest-

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[4]Therefore, the *Coward* plan would have been an investment contract under the analysis in the last section.

ment risk, the Seventh Circuit concluded that the fourth element of the *Howey* test--that the profits come from the efforts of others--was not met[5].

After correctly identifying the plan in the present case as a defined contribution plan, the Tenth Circuit concluded, because the employee under such plan must bear the investment risk, the "efforts of others" portion of the *Howey* test had been met. The Tenth Circuit said:

> [This requirement is] met in this case because any profit on plaintiffs' ESOP interest would occur through dividend distributions and appreciation in the value of the stock allocated to their accounts, which in both cases

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[5]This rationale was accepted in two other cases cited by the petitioners. *Cunha v. Ward Foods, Inc.*, 545 F. Supp. 94, 99-100 (D. Haw. 1982), aff'd in part, rev'd in part on other grounds, 804 F.2d 1418 (9th Cir. 1986); *Tanuggi v. Grolier, Inc.*, 471 F. Supp. 1209 (S.D.N.Y. 1979). These cases have no application to the present case involving a defined contribution plan.

> would result primarily from the efforts of CL's managers and its employees.

Individual Petitioners' Brief, App. 41-42, quoting with approval, *Harris v. Republic Airlines Inc.*, [1987-1988 Transfer Binder] Fed. Sec. L. Rep. (CCH) ¶ 93,772 at 98,624 (D.D.C. 1988)(Sporkin, J.). This conclusion is consistent with this Court's holdings in *SEC v. United Benefit Life Ins. Co.*, 387 U.S.202 (1967); and *SEC v. Variable Annuity Life Ins. Co. of America*, 359 U.S. 65 (1959).

Again, the difference between the plans mandates a different result under *Howey*. The present case and *Coward* are distinguishable and not in conflict.[6]

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[6] See generally, 5 H. Bluementhal, Securities & Federal Corporate Law § 2.07[5][a] at 2-73 (1991).

II. THE TENTH CIRCUIT'S DECISION THAT ERISA DOES NOT PRE-EMPT COVERAGE UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT DOES NOT CONFLICT WITH THIS COURT'S DECISION IN *DANIEL*

The second alleged conflict the petitioners believe entitle them to certiorari under Rule 10(c) is a purported conflict between the ruling in the present case that the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"), 29 U.S.C. § 1001 et seq. does not pre-empt the application of the securities acts and this Court's holding in *Daniel*. The petitioners argue, based upon *Daniel*, even if the wage reduction plan in the present case can qualify as an investment contract under the *Howey* test that all such plans are no longer to be treated as securities because of their coverage under ERISA. It is true that this Court in *Daniel* gave as one of its reasons why the plan in that case should not be covered by the se-

curities acts was the fact that the plan was covered by ERISA. 439 U.S. at 569-570. The Tenth Circuit, however, correctly rejected the application of this holding to the present case for two reasons.

First, the Tenth Circuit correctly pointed out that the language of the Court in *Daniel* was limited to the compulsory non-contributory plan before it. Individual Petitioners' Brief, App. 76. This distinction is important because the Court in *Daniel* had already acknowledged that voluntary contributory plans had been considered securities for more than forty years. See 439 U.S. at 566-567.

Thus, the issue in *Daniel* was not the status of the voluntary contributory plans, but rather whether the investment contract concept should be extended to compulsory non-contributory plans previously thought not to be covered by the securities acts.

In that context, the application of ERISA is significant to determine Congressional intent and to determine the need to extend the protection of the securities acts to this new class of plans. The Tenth Circuit extensively considered each of these points and found no displacement of the securities acts under either point. Individual Petitioners' Brief, App. 52-79. Again, the Respondents submit the analysis of the Tenth Circuit is entirely correct and is not in conflict with either *Daniel* or the subsequent holdings in *Reves v. Ernst & Young*, 494 U.S. 56 (1990), and *Marine Bank v. Weaver*, 455 U.S. 551 (1982).

Turning first to the need for protection issue, the Tenth Circuit held that the test developed in *Daniel* has been further refined in *Reeves* and *Marine Bank*. The Tenth Circuit held that the current test is whether or not "such alternate federal re-

gulation accomplishes the same purposes as the securities laws, thereby making the securities laws' protection for investors duplicative and unnecessary." Individual Petitioner' Brief, App. 55, citing *Holloway v. Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co.*, 879 F.2d 772, 778 (10th Cir. 1989).

Applying this standard, the Tenth Circuit held that ERISA does not provide the same type of comprehensive disclosure and remedial protection contemplated by the securities act. *Id.* at App. 57-72. ERISA does not mandate pre-investment disclosure, and the disclosure required is directed toward employee's rights under the plan rather than "distributing information regarding the plan's financing or its financial soundness" *Id.* at 60. There is clear evidence that Congress was concerned with the need for such pre-investment disclosure in connection with employee benefit plans.

H.R. Conf. Rep. No. 1838, 73d Cong., 2d Sess. 41 (1934), quoted in *Id.* at 50. ERISA also does not provide a right of rescission such as the Respondents are seeking in the present case. *Id.* at 66-72.

As to the issue of Congressional intent, coverage under ERISA would lend support to an inference that Congress agreed with the prevailing view, confirmed by *Daniel*, that compulsory non-contributory plans were not covered. Such an inference, however, may not be extended to cover voluntary contributory plans in the face of a showing of specific evidence of Congressional intent to cover such plans under the securities acts.

The Tenth Circuit found an abundance of such evidence in the legislative history of the securities acts, beginning soon after their passage and continuing after the passage of ERISA. *Id.* at 50-52. It

also pointed out, as did *Daniel*, that the SEC has asserted jurisdiction over such plans continuously since 1940 and continues to do so. *Id.* at 48 n.13. See also *Diagnostics, Inc.*, [1981-1982 Transfer Binder] Fed. Sec. L. Rep. (CCH) ¶ 77,354 (SEC NAL Nov. 29, 1982); *Analog Devices, Inc.*, 1983 SEC No-Act. LEXIS 2022 (SEC NAL Mar. 15, 1983); *Clark Tank Lines*, 1984 SEC No. Act. LEXIS 2590 (SEC NAL Sept. 22, 1984). Further, the Tenth Circuit noted that, ERISA itself contains an expression of such intent in Section 1144(d). This section specifically provides that it was not Congressional intent in passing ERISA to "alter, amend, modify, invalidate, impair, or supersede" any existing federal statute. 29 U.S.C. § 1144(d).[7]

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[7]As the Tenth Circuit noted, this conclusion is further re-enforced by the specific exclusion from pre-emption of the state securities laws. See Individual

III. THE PRESENT CASE DOES NOT PRESENT AN ISSUE OF SUFFICIENT NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE TO WARRANT A GRANT OF CERTIORARI

Petitioner Pepsico appears to argue that certiorari is appropriate under Rule 10(c) on the basis that the present case involves an important question of federal law which should be decided by this Court. It does so by pointing out that 10,000 companies utilize some form of employee stock ownership plan and that these companies employ more than 11.5 million Americans. Pepsico Brief, 3, citing Employee Ownership Plans Seem As Way to Protect Workers' Jobs, Daily Labor Report (BNA) No. 68, at A-4 (Apr. 9, 1991). The impression that Pepsico tries to convey is that the present case will have an adverse impact upon all these plans and employees.

Petitioners' Brief, App. 72-79.

A reading of the cited article, however, indicates that voluntary contributory plans such as the one in the case at bar make up only a very small portion of this total either in terms of plans or number of employees. Further, the article states most current wage reduction plans are union-sponsored.* As a result, the acceptance of the plan is by union vote rather than by individual decision. Therefore, the

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*This caused the courts in *Childers v. Northwest Airlines, Inc.*, 688 F. Supp. 1357 (D. Minn. 1988) and *Bauman v. Bish*, 571 F. Supp. 1054 (N.D.W.Va. 1983), both cited and relied upon by the petitioners, to hold that there was "no sale" of the interests in the wage reduction package. As noted by the Tenth Circuit, Individual Petitioners' Brief, App. 46 n.12, this collective union-vote distinguishes these cases from the present one where the employees had to make individual decisions on whether to join the plan. Further, there is substantial question as to the validity of these decisions in light of the abandonment of the "no sale" theory by the SEC in 1972. See generally, R. Jennings & H. Marsh, Securities Regulation 405-411 (6th ed. 1987).

impact of the present case, even if it provided major change in prior expectations in this area would not have a major impact.

The present case, however, does not make a major change in the expectations as to the coverage of voluntary contributory plans. While this Court has never ruled directly upon this issue, it acknowledged in *Daniel*, 439 U.S. 563-569, that SEC had asserted jurisdiction over voluntary contributory fixed contribution plans for about 40 years. The SEC, immediately following *Daniels*, reasserted its jurisdiction over these voluntary contributory plans. Employee Benefit Plans, Securities Act Rel. No. 33-6188, 1 Fed. Sec. L. Rep. (CCH) ¶ 1051 at 2073-8 to 2973-9 (Feb. 1, 1980); Employee Benefit Plans, Securities Act Rel. No. 33-6281, 1 Fed. Sec. L. Rep. ¶ 1052 at 2073-31 (Jan. 15, 1981). Further, as pointed out in the last Section, the

Tenth Circuit found there is substantial evidence, dating from soon after the passage of the Securities Act of 1933, that Congress intended such plans to be covered and specifically assented to the SEC's claim of jurisdiction. Individual Petitioners' Brief, App. 49-52,

Two final points should be noted. First, the only other cases to consider plans similar to the wage reduction plan in the present case have also concluded that the plans constituted investment contracts. *Hood v. Smith's Transfer Corp.*, 762 F. Supp. 1274 (W.D.Ky. 1991); *Harris v. Republic Airlines, Inc.*, [1987-1988 Transfer Binder] Fed. Sec. L. Rep. (CCH) ¶ 93,772 (D.D.C. May 18, 1988) (Sporkin, J.). See also *Leonard v. Drug Fair Inc.*, [1979-1980 Transfer Binder] Fed. Sec. L. Rep. (CCH) ¶ 97,144 (D.D.C. 1979). Further, and probably more revealing, is the fact that

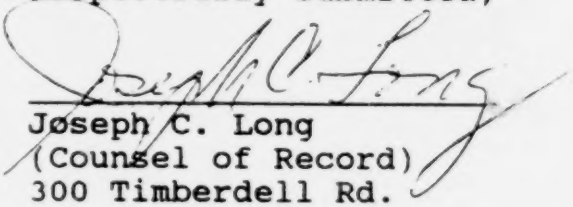
wage reduction programs similar to the one in the present case were quite common in the trucking industry in the mid-1980's. The records of the SEC reflect, however, that most were registered. See e.g, *Interstate Motor Freight System*, SEC Reg. No. 2-87143 (Nov. 7, 1983); *Transcon Incorporated*, SEC Reg. No. 2-85365 (Aug. 22, 1983); *Ryder/P-I-E Nationwide, Inc.*, SEC No. (Sept. 17, 1985). As a result, it is clear that the industry itself knew that the plans they were offering were securities. Only the present petitioners appear to be out-of-step.

In light of this substantial body of consistent authority agreeing with the conclusion of the Tenth Circuit, Respondents submit that the issues involved are not of sufficient national significance to occupy the limited and precious time of this Court.

CONCLUSION

For the above stated reasons, the Respondent respectfully urges this Court to deny the request by both groups of petitioners for a Writ of Certiorari.

Respectfully submitted,



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